WORLD / A26

Democratic White House bets make history debating with voters via YouTube

NEWS / A2

19 senators ask court to allow Trillanes to attend sessions

NEWS / A8

Environmentalists: Let Reyes stay until trees project completed

WORLD / A25

58 Indons die in landslides after floods

NEWS / A22

Congress to push bill cutting cost of medicines

Sunday Inquirer Magazine No. 1, says Nielsen survey

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE IS THE NO. 1 weekend supplement in the country, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Nielsen's nationwide survey, conducted in the first quarter of 2007, showed that 50 percent of respondents who read a weekend supplement the past week said SMI was their magazine of choice.

The survey estimated that 3,887,000 SMI

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, July 25, 2007 44 Sections / Vol. 23 / No. 227 P18 www.inquirer.net

High court defers action on TRO against terror law

By Lala B. Salaverria

TOP OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE branch and the military have been ordered by the Supreme Court to comment within 10 days on petitions seeking to nullify the controversial antiterror law.

But the high court delivered action on the request of the petitioners that a temporary restraining order be imposed on the implementation of the law, the Human Security Act (HSA) of 2007, while deliberations were ongoing.

"The court required the respondents to comment on the [15] petitions on receipt of the rollcall's directive. So TRO," Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez told reporters yesterday.

According to Marquez, it was the high court en banc that ruled the

PANORAMA / A10

Produce Jonas on Friday, SC orders AFP

By Lala B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DEMANDED the demand Bureau to produce Jonas Burgos despite the military's insistence it was not holding the missing activist.

The tribunal's first division chaired by Chief Justice Reynato Puno issued a writ of habeas corpus in response to a petition filed by Jonas' mother, Edita Burgos, and ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and the other respondents, who included President Macapagal-Arroyo, to present Jonas before the Court of Appeals in Manila on Friday morning, and to explain why he should continue to be detained.

In directing Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes to immediately call Dr. Jonas' case among the court's justices, and said the designated justice should hear the case on Friday and submit a report to the tribunal after handing down his decision.

Copies of the writ of habeas corpus were released to the media only yesterday but it was dated July 16—the first day of the summit initiated by the Supreme Court to come up with solutions to the unabated extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

Said the high court's first division: "You (respondents) or your duly authorized representatives are hereby ordered

HEADLINE / A10

Villar: GMA a lame duck

She will definitely go in 2010, says Palace

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

SENATORS YESTERDAY slammed President Macapagal-Arroyo for sounding insecure in her State of the Nation Address about her "lame-duck" status in the next three years.

"She's being too defensive about her lame-duck status. I don't think it was necessary for her to make those statements, much less challenge us," Senate President Manuel Villar said in an interview earlier in the day.

In her address on Monday at the opening of the 14th Congress, the President said: "I am not an obstacle to anyone's ambition. But make no mistake. I will not stand idly by when anyone gets in the way of the national interest and I will not block the national vision. Puwes arbor, I can tell you, a President is always an obstacle in the minds of the..."

Villar said Ms. Arroyo should be more

VILLAR / A2

VILLAR: There are a lot of conspirators when she [GMA] says someone could get in the way. We are an independent Senate, it's not always possible to say "yes, yes" to what she wants.

A PRAYERFUL PAUSE for President Arroyo before going into the 24th Ninth board meeting at the Palace on Tuesday. Ms. Arroyo and her economic managers approve the proposed 2008 national budget of more than a trillion pesos, which will be submitted next month to Congress.

Int'l rating firm on Sona infra projects: Where's cash?

By Michelle V. Ramos and Michael Lim Ubac

BUDGET SHORTFALL

An international credit rating agency yesterday doubted the government's capacity to finance the infrastructure projects that President Macapagal-Arroyo enumerated in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last Monday.

"In the absence of a significant improvement in tax collection, it will not be possible for the Philippine government to implement its ambitious and much-needed infrastructure development program," Fitch Ratings said in a statement.

"That, in turn, would jeopardize the country's medium-term economic growth outlook and, ultimately, its sovereign credit worthiness," it said.

But Malacañang said there was enough money to fund the projects.

At a press briefing, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the "Sona projects" had already been incorporated in the proposed 2008 budget of P1.227 trillion.

BITI, EXACTING / A2

Palace proposes P1.227-trillion budget for 2008

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY AP-proved a proposed P1.227-trillion budget for 2008, up from this year's P1.1561 trillion.

The proposed budget will be submitted to the House of Representatives not later than Aug. 24.

"The thrust of the budget would be on infrastructure, edu-

PALACE / A4

Senators see red over blue ribbon panel chair

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE WORLD FAMED SENATE RIBBON may also be home to Senate President Manuel Villar's woes as disarray spreads due to disagreements on whether an administration or opposition senator should chair the blue ribbon committee—the powerful panel that investigates government irregularities.

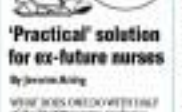
The three opposition senators in the majority bloc—Senators Francis Escudero, Juan Ponce Enrile and Jinggoy Estrada—would like one of their own to head the blue ribbon committee while the nine administration senators in the alliance are pushing for the retention of Sen. Juliet Ann Ponce-Enrile.

Sen. Loren Legarda, one of eight opposition senators who did not vote for Villar, said it was a pity that the majority coalition would decide the committee leaderships, including the blue ribbon committee.

"The blue ribbon is at the heart of the fiscalizing role/arm of the Senate and this should be in the hands of a real opposition," said Legarda.

After being elected Senate Presi-

SENATORS / A2



'Practical' solution for ex-future nurses

By Jovelyn Arong

WHAT DOES ONE DO WITH THE 5 of the 70,000 nursing graduates who are supposed to finish the U.S. criterion examination administered last month?

Salaries from many hospitals in the country to give them a "practical" fallback position.

Those who passing for the thinkers for gave the option to become "practical nurses," those who

PRACTICAL / A10

CONFERENCE COMBO: Trophy she spends while first representational meeting of the League of Provinces while the Philippines is the moderator representing the organization of Lito Atienza as environment secretary; Provincial Interior Undersecretary Tony Pio Barua; Governor Grace Garcia of Cebu; Cruz Padua of Isabela; Raymond Villanueva of Camarines Sur; Dax Cruz of Quirino and Edilberto Sarmiento of Pampanga. Mayor Ouidelind Ubo Lucas Bumpus is Batangas's new president.

7th Harry Potter book is fastest selling in history

NEW YORK – THE NUMBERS ARE IN!!!, the now old Internet has told like "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

And J.K. Rowling is already the first billionaire author.

The seventh and final volume in the Harry Potter series has become the fastest-selling book in history, with more than 11 million copies sold during the first 24 hours in three markets alone—Britain, Germany and the United States.

Lisa Holton, president of Scholastic Trade and Book Fairs, likened the week-end excitement in the United States to the hysteria that greeted the Beatles' first

TSUNAMI / A9

A1 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007

SEC. 29 29 | SEC ON/OFF 4 4 3 8 8 8
Mid-Day SUBSTITUTE Evening 6 1 8 | 6 1 7
6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN 4 13 15 22 28 42
P4,907,503.00

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Senate roils over Trillanes

By Dona Pazcoguin

THE SENATE SPENT MOST OF ITS SECOND SESSION day yesterday debating a proposed resolution calling on the courts to allow the detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV to attend Senate sessions and perform his duties as an elective official.

While support for the resolution proposed by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has several party lines, strong opposition from a few senators led to prolonged discussion.

As of yesterday, only four of the 23 senators have not signed the resolution—administration senators Joker Arroyo, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Richard Gordon and Juan Miguel Zubiri from the majority bloc.

Senators Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan, who are also in the majority bloc, have expressed support for the resolution but with reservations.

Earlier, who said he signed it as a gesture of goodwill to the minority bloc, said he did not want the resolution to be used as part of Trillanes' legal arguments before the court.

Trillanes, a former Navy lieutenant, was elected senator while detained and on trial for the crime of coup d'etat for involvement in the July 2003 failed coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny.

Earlier, questioned why none of his fellow colleagues moved to support him when, while on recess as senator, he was arrested in 2003 for allegedly instigating the siege of Makati ending by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I don't know about that. There's no parity of population. So [Trillanes] appears to have gained popular support for his cause," Pimentel replied.

Earlier, citing the implications of the resolution, moved to postpone the measure's voting to the following day, so that the records will reflect the vote of each senator.

Honasan took offense at a portion of the resolution calling for reconsideration in the same coup d'etat case having based by Trillanes and other junior officers.

Honasan, who was recently cleared by the Department of Justice of involvement in the mutiny said his circumstances were different from that of Trillanes although he supported each party.

Pimentel agreed to delete the part that read, "whereas the charges against the alleged leader of the Oakwood mutiny, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, have been dropped by the Department of Justice."

The Makati Regional Trial Court has already twice rejected Trillanes' petition for bail. Coup d'etat is a non-bailable offense.

Trillanes has a pending substitute petition before the court asking for, among other things, special leave to attend Senate functions, access to the media, and a reevaluation in his jail cell.

Access to the media, and a reevaluation in his jail cell.

Arroyo said in the floor, during what he said was the Senate's first foray in the judiciary, he said Trillanes' lawyer should work instead to refine the charges against the senator so he can be allowed bail.

"I have expressed sympathy for [Trillanes]... but he can't use the Senate as a vehicle instead of the courts," said Arroyo.

He cited the Supreme Court decision disallowing then congressman Romeo Jalosjos, a convicted child rapist, from attending sessions of the House of Representatives.

$250-M SCAM

Forex firm's local execs face suit

By Tina G. Santos

A GROUP OF INVESTORS WILL FILE TODAY a class suit against the incorporators of Performance Investment Products Corp. (PIPC), a foreign exchange trading firm whose owner has disappeared with at least $250 million of investors' money.

Lawyer John Bilbao, counsel for at least five PIPC investors, said they would file charges of "large scale syndicated estafa" against Michael A.K. Law, the Singaporean owner of PIPC, and Cristina Gonzalez Dayao, the firm's Philippine general manager.

Bilbao has enlisted in name his clients, saying "they want privacy and peace for their families."

"But they will come out at the proper time," said Bilbao, who was interviewed in the National Bureau of Investigation-anti-organized crime division where he and his clients were putting together their documentary proofs.

"There are around 2,000 to 2,500 people who invested money with PIPC, so we expect more to come forward and file a complaint," Perlas said.

One of Bilbao's clients, a shiny something businessman, said that PIPC investors included expatriate executives and families with their meal tickets abroad.

"There are also those who came from the Visayas and Davao and whenever Imera rep is Baterial family," the investor said. "That's why they were enlightened to come out in the open."

The PIPC case first came to light when its main secretary, Elsie Lee Ong, walking help from the hospital in touting the whereabouts of Law, the owner of Performance Investments Products Corp., in the British Virgin Islands/Performance Investment, BVI.

Law is also president of PIPC, the local subsidiary of the Caymanian investment, BVI.

In her letter, Dayao said Law had "an...landslide takes the money" of Performance Investments "to the great prejudice of investors," including herself.

Earlier last week, the firm's investors were told that Law had absconded with their money and that the bank accounts which held their investments had been emptied each bond.

Perlas said Dayao was liable because she was the firm's local incorporator.

"By filing a complaint with the SEC, Dayao was now making it appear that she also was a victim. I don't know if that's her defense...my taste but we believe that she is also a suspect," Perlas said.

"She was presiding at Law as the one who called away the funds. So all we know, Michael Law doesn't even exist," he said.

The thirty-something complainant claimed to have learnt that Dayao was encouraging other investors to shell out more money to come up with from $200,000 to $250,000 which they would naturally need to have a Hong Kong based lawyer to locate Law.

The other day, a businesswoman from Makati's Dasmariñas Village showed up at the NBI to file a complaint against Dayao, who she claimed ventured her on invest $50,000 to the company.

Speaking on behalf of his daughter, the complainant's father said that she, "along with several residents and affluent families of Forbes Park and Dasmariñas," were personally recruited by Dayao.

"Dayao] really went around, enticing people to invest. Some investors put in $300,000 or $400,000," he said, adding that his daughter came to know Dayao through a friend.

Pursuing Basilan attackers no walk in the park – Esperon

By Christine Avendaño and Inquirer Mindanao

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. HERMOGENES Esperon Jr. said going after the perpetrators of the deadly July 10 attack in Basilan would not be a walk in the park for the military.

He said he has ordered additional forces to be deployed in case the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) makes good its threat to launch retaliatory attacks in Lanao del Norte.

Esperon said the troops were in pursuit of 20 more identified as the ones who killed and mutilated 14 Marines and wounded nine other soldiers during an ambush in Albatar, Basilan, which the MILF has admitted to having staged.

The men are armed with high-powered firearms that include the more than 20 weapons they took from the dead Marines, he told reporters last Monday.

"That's the risk of embracing this, of doing this," he said of the job facing the 1,000-strong force made up of the military police and infantrymen.

"This is not a walk in the park. We know that, we expect it," he added.

Esperon said the military was not extending the deadline it gave the MILF to surrender the perpetrators, "after all [were who they are]."

But he said the AFP cannot extend the deadline and have unprotected hour after hour headed and murdered the Marines.

"We were pointing at Lion as the one who called away the funds. So all we know, Michael Law doesn't even exist," he said.

The thirty-something complainant claimed to have learnt that Dayao was encouraging other investors to shell out more money to come up with from $200,000 to $250,000 which they would naturally need to have a Hong Kong based lawyer to locate Law.

The other day, a businesswoman from Makati's Dasmariñas Village showed up at the NBI to file a complaint against Dayao, who she claimed ventured her on invest $50,000 to the company.

Speaking on behalf of his daughter, the complainant's father said that she, "along with several residents and affluent families of Forbes Park and Dasmariñas," were personally recruited by Dayao.

"Dayao] really went around, enticing people to invest. Some investors put in $300,000 or $400,000," he said, adding that his daughter came to know Dayao through a friend.

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AUCTION SALE MALINTA

TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

Auction Dates:
July 26 - 29, 2007
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates:
July 20 - 25, 2007
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

For inquiries please call:
(02) 864-8741 • (02) 864-8753 • (02) 864-0213 loc 118

Terms & Equipment Financing Available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 556-4888

Garcia: Never say die

By Jhonnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—AFTER FAILING TO WIN THE speakership, Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia has proposed the formation of an independent bloc in the House of Representatives.

At least 21 congressmen, disappointed over Monday's proceedings to pick a new Speaker, had expressed interest in joining such a bloc, which he and Zamboanga Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte planned to put up, Garcia said.

"We will form a group, an independent bloc. We will not be joining the minority or the majority. We will be independent in Congress. Our group will serve as a watchdog bloc," he said.

Garcia said he had regrets about the outcome of the fight for the speakership after he decided to back Jose Solomon's nomination to the speakership.

He denied withdrawing from the race or refusing to be nominated. He said De Venecia and his followers had exerted all efforts to see to it that he would not be nominated.

He said that after De Venecia's nomination was seconded, the nomination process was closed and that was the ending remark.

He said a fellow Cebuano congressman, Antonio Cuenco, had lectured against him by nominating De Venecia after Cuenco had committed his support to Garcia.

Garcia said Cuenco violated him at his Waterfront office to express support for his speakership bid.

As when Cuenco stood up to nominate De Venecia, Garcia said it was "treachery."

Cuenco, however, said it was a simple case of "sour grapes" on Garcia's part.

He said Garcia should not blame him for his defeat because it was Garcia's camp that committed mistakes in strategy.

Instead of pushing for a secret balloting, Cuenco said the Garcia camp resorted to questioning the authority of the presiding officer as the House was not in vote for the Speaker.

He said his commitment was to support a secret ballot, not to vote for Garcia. With a report by Norman Bordadora

Arroyos vent for JDV

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SUMmoned Speaker Jose de Venecia to Malacañang to ask him to withdraw his bid for reelection as House Speaker, Malacañang sources said.

The President reportedly told De Venecia that he should not run for reelection as Speaker because he was not the administration's choice.

The President's move came after De Venecia's supporters in the House of Representatives had already begun campaigning for him.

Sources said the President's move was prompted by reports that De Venecia's supporters were trying to get the votes of administration congressmen.

Malacañang sources said the President's move was also

FOR BIODEGRADABLE
FOR NON-BIODEGRADABLE
FOR THE MONEY YOU THROW AWAY EACH TIME YOU USE CASH WHEN YOU GAS UP
Huwag magtapon ng pera.
HSBC
The world's local bank

Because I Deserve Better
FREE Skin Rejuvenation Starter Program
upon enrollment from July 23-28, 2007 only.
facial care
CENTRE
892-SKIN (7546)

It's our 60th birthday.

Reserve your seat early to join the celebrations.

We're celebrating our 60th birthday by giving you even more reason to book your Singapore Airlines flight early. Simply reserve your seat between 19th and 31st July for departure October through December and receive 100% KrisFlyer bonus miles! Book through singaporeair.com and receive 100% bonus miles! Plus, you'll be eligible to join the lucky draw for a chance to win an additional 60,000 KrisFlyer miles! Of course, there's also the peace of mind that comes with knowing you're confirmed to travel on your preferred dates and with the airline whose inflight service even other airlines talk about.

ALL PRODUCTS ARE
BFAD APPROVED
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS

Ming's

GREEN TEA CANDY
GINSENG Candy
PEI PA KOA CANDY

SR FOOD PHILS.

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés? We can help you.

JOB

NAPAGKITA-KITA NA SILA, CONGRATS!

₱1 Million Winner
Pacencia L. de Castro
of Lipa City, Batangas na nakabuo ng H-A-L-L-S.

3 winners of ₱100,000

Jennelyn Makalintal
33-BCFC Rosters Pinatag
Area Talolon, QC

Juancho Monteiro
72-B Salvador St.,
Lahugan, Cebu City

Leonardo Mongaya
Villa Rosario, Tupa
Misamis Oriental

Suking Tindahan Winners of ₱5,000 each

PUREGOLD, E. Rodriguez, QC
YANGGA SARI-SARI STORE, Cebu
CUADRASAL STORE, Misamis Oriental

Pwede pang manalo ng ₱1 Million basta mabuo ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S!
May raffle draws pa sa August 20 at October 5, 2007.

3 PUP execs to face trial at Sandigan

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS ORDERED THE trial of three executives of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines to continue the 11 counts of graft cases filed against them 15 years ago for allegedly defrauding the government of over P20 million through anomalous construction projects.

In a 12-page resolution, the antigraft court's Fourth Division said there was enough evidence to support the finding of probable cause against former PUP vice president for administration Dante Guevarra, ex-administrative officer Augusto Cesar and former accounting division chief Adriano Salvador.

Salvador is now acting PUP president while Cesar is now vice president for administration. It was not immediately known whether Salvador is still connected with PUP.

Court records showed that the graft cases stemmed from a complaint lodged by PUP faculty members Zenaida Pia and Genaro Gatchalian with the Office of the Ombudsman in 1995.

In their complaint, the three were accused of misappropriating P30.9 million worth of tuition contribution materials for the construction of eight school buildings in 1989, among others.

The three officials were also accused of allowing the overpayment of P1.167 million in terminal leave benefits to a faculty member and almost P1.74 million in incidental and extraordinary fees to 64 employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

In asking the court to dismiss the cases, the accused pointed out that Pia and Gatchalian have already desisted from further proceeding with the trial and that the Commission on Audit has reversed its report which the Ombudsman based its findings against them.

They said the COA came out with a subsequent report "practically exonerating" them of the charges.

However, the court pointed out that Pia and Gatchalian's affidavit of desistance was not sufficient cause to dismiss the cases, noting that these involved public funds. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Corrections

IN THE JULY 13 ISSUE, Taddy Anne Carvajal's "Hollywood" column on Page D4 of the Entertainment section "Carvalino reviews' book editor's pen violet"—misspelled the title of a local independent film. The film's title is "Liguo' Li fame"—not "Liguar'Lifam."

* * *

IN THE JULY 20 ISSUE, a front page article—"Boy who saved 4 kids in Baguio tragedy a 'modern hero'"—mentioned the date when the accidents happened in Bocaue, Bulacan. The event took place on July 2, 1993—not July 8, 1993.

* * *

IN THE JULY 14 ISSUE, Gerardo de Quiroz' "There's the Rub" column on Page A14—"Let's join the SEW"—misstated the name of the highest award accorded to a Filipino soldier by the armed forces of the Philippines. The highest award given out by the AFP is the Medal of Valor...not the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is given out by the US Congress.

* * *

IN THE MORE DEAL, an article on Page A10..."Is GMA scrapping dams in 2010?" Pillar, Pangilinan brothers?"—misspelled the name of a town in the province of Bulacan. The town's name is Bulacan—not Bulakan.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 800 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Riverside Drive, Makati City, the fax, 897-47-92/94; e-mail address: dayde@inquirer.com.ph.

Complainants must think of between or thereafter may be sent to Letter Desk, Fax, mail address, e-mail address, mailbox/address, 5th or fax line, 897-47-92/94, text, header, telegram. The phone number is 897-0000 ext 342.

Palace proposes ₱1.227-trillion budget for 2008

From page A1

cation, health, science and technology, technology training, housing and salary adjustments," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said.

Under the proposed budget, the Department of Education will get ₱145 billion, up from ₱141 billion; the Department of Public Works and Highways, ₱93.5 billion from ₱79.6 billion; Department of National Defense, ₱56 billion from ₱50.8 billion; Department of Interior and Local Government, ₱52.5 billion from ₱51.1 billion, and Department of Agriculture, ₱41.7 billion from ₱36 billion.

The allocation for the grain-ridden pork barrel, known as the Priority Development Assistance Fund, will remain at about ₱4 billion, according to Andaya.

In percentage increases, the biggest gainers are the following:

- National Housing Authority, from ₱207 million to ₱1 billion, an increase of 1,347 percent. The additional funding will finance socialized housing projects.
- Department of Science and Technology, from ₱1.6 billion to ₱5.1 billion, or an increase of 211 percent. The increase is due to scholarship grants to high school students and loans to college students.
- Department of Health, from ₱12.69 billion to ₱31 billion, an increase of 112 percent.
- Department of Public Works and Highways, from ₱79.61 billion to ₱93.5 billion, or an increase of 17.4 percent.

P30B for salary hikes

Andaya happily announced that next year's budget would have an additional ₱30 billion for personnel services.

"That represents the full year implementation of our salary increase which will take effect this month—the 18 percent salary increase—as we will satisfy that—not next year, plus an allocation of ₱11 billion for the implementation of the salary standardization Part 3," he said.

"The salary penalty of the President is the increase in the salary of our state workers," he said.

"So the initial implementation would be ₱11 billion. We're looking at a total amount of around ₱30 or almost all ₱30 in terms of salary increases," Andaya said.

Int'l rating firm on Sona infra projects: Where's the money?

From page A1

up from this year's ₱1.126 trillion. (Story begins.)

Andaya and Neda made the announcement following a meeting in which the Development Budget Coordinating Committee, the Fiscal Incentives Review Board and the board of the National Economic and Development Authority approved the proposed national budget for 2008. The proposed budget will be submitted to Congress no later than Aug. 24.

The budget bill provides ₱113.5 billion for infrastructure projects in the countryside, ₱5.8 billion for the extension and construction of 23 airports, ₱5 billion for low-cost housing projects and ₱2.6 billion for the renovation of elections, according to Andaya.

Fitch expects the budget deficit this year to swell to ₱221 billion from ₱84.8 billion in 2006 because of anemic tax collection, a budget deficit to the difference between revenues and expenditures.

Fitch said a ₱126-billion deficit would be ₱97 from a ₱1.020-trillion revenue collection and ₱1.353-trillion expenditure.

The government said it would spend ₱1.381 trillion on account of ₱1.118 trillion.

The Arroyo administration is targeting a full-year deficit of ₱63 billion.

A FORCEFUL, CONFIDENT President Arroyo renews a point in her State of the Nation Address on Monday at the Batasang Pambansa. AUGUSTO SANTOS

Disappointing

Lifting the revenue shortfall in the first half of the year, Fitch said the government would be unable to cut the deficit to the second half.

"Year-to-date tax collection in June 2007 was almost ₱52 billion below official targets, and increased by only 3.4 percent over 2006. This is a particularly disappointing performance for last year's positive fiscal numbers, and among economic growth in the first half of 2007," Fitch said.

The Department of Finance earlier reported that the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs had collected a total of ₱420.9 billion, ₱51.7 billion short of the target.

The lower revenue collection led to the breaching of the budget deficit set for the first half. The deficit hit ₱221 billion, way above the target of ₱131.1 billion.

Sale of government stake

Mekwinking has said it can still reach its full-year goal by raising more than ₱100 billion through the sale of government stakes in companies in the second half.

"In our view, optimism regarding revenue prospects in the short term is unwarranted, since various measures to improve tax collection and reduce evasion have been in place for some time, without meaningful results," James McCormack, Fitch's head of Asia sovereigns, said in a statement.

Fitch said its sovereign rating collection was crucial for the Philippines, especially if it wants to pursue its infrastructure projects over the medium term.

Ms Arroyo said in her State-of-the-Nation address that the government would pursue more projects that will improve on the country's infrastructure as a way to make the country's climate more conducive for business.

Responding to the solicitation, the government will have to fulfill its task of developing infrastructure by borrowing more, a move that could lead to debts, according to Fitch.

Not reviving

It forecast the government's total debt would fall to 55 percent of GDP by the end of the year from a peak of 79 percent in 2004.

Fitch's outlook on the Philippines improved from "negative" to "stable" last year. It "stable" outlook means a country does not face the threat of having its credit rating downgraded in the short term.

Although it sees the Philippines having to deficit target for the year, Fitch said it was not revising its outlook on the Philippines.

With a report from Reuters

BDO

BDO: Euromoney Best Bank in the Philippines for 2007

A recognition of our passion for finding ways.

Over the past year, our passion to constantly respond to your needs has pushed us to outperform the competition. This year, our push for constant innovation will be stronger, our drive for improving service will be harder, and our pursuit to keep finding ways for you will be more intense. Simply because it's our passion.

EUROMONEY 2007

We find ways

DOJ to press charges vs Fr. Bossi's kidnappers

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

DAMBANGA CITY—THE DEpartment of Justice is here on Thursday to start signing the affidavits of Fr. Giancarlo Bossi.

But it appears Bossi's supervisor is not too keen on the prospect of him testifying.

Ricardo Cabarios, Western Mindanao state prosecutor, said the DOJ was saddened by the statements of Fr. Gabriel Amodeo, superior of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME) to which Bossi belongs, that the Isnad priest would not take the witness stand.

"It's unfortunate to hear that Father Bossi's superior wasn't allow him to testify," Cabarios said.

He said PIME was bound by Philippine laws.

"Bossi is an Italian priest and he is here in our country as a guest; as a guest he should submit to the laws of his host country. He cannot set conditions on himself," Cabarios said.

But Fr. Amodeo said Bossi was interested in sharing his ordeal, but testifying against his kidnappers was "no longer part of the priest's mission."

"We can do that (testify), all right, but as much as possible we want to keep this kind of case to the government," Amodeo said.

Amodeo said it was the same stand taken by the PIME after Fr. Luciano Benedetti was kidnapped several years ago.

He said Benedetti decided not to pursue the case against his captors.

"Because, according to Luciano, his captors were young and at that age they did not know what they were doing," Amodeo said.

He heaped praise on Bossi's successor, Fr. Cirilo Sarmiento.

"Fr. Sarmiento is doing a good job. He is very much involved in the affairs of the parish and the diocese," Amodeo said.

Amodeo said it was the same stand taken by the PIME after Fr. Luciano Benedetti was kidnapped several years ago.

He said Benedetti decided not to pursue the case against his captors.

"Because, according to Luciano, his captors were young and at that age they did not know what they were doing," Amodeo said.

He heaped praise on Bossi's successor, Fr. Cirilo Sarmiento.

"Fr. Sarmiento is doing a good job. He is very much involved in the affairs of the parish and the diocese," Amodeo said.

"His hands-on style, his expressiveness, his enthusiasm, his dedication and his love for the people are very much appreciated by the parishioners," Amodeo said.

"His contributions to the parish and the diocese

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A

7th Harry Potter book fastest selling in history

From page A1

visit to the country.

"This weekend, kids and adults alike are strong on hours, in the park, on airplanes and in restaurants reading 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows'," Osborne said.

It's sales of this seventh and final book of fantasy series hit 8.3 million, comfortably beating the previous Potter installment, which posted sales of 6.9 million copies on the first day, US publisher Scholastic announced.

In Britain, Bloomsbury sold a record 2.7 million copies in the first 24 hours, up from 2 million for "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

The same company also announced nearly 400,000 copies of the English language edition of the book were bought in Germany over the same period.

Bunding, 41, is likely to see her fortune swell further over the coming years. She was donated to for nearly $1.12 billion already, making her the first billionaire author.

In the Philippines, Ubary Chua, general manager for trade and education at Scholastic (Phil) Inc., said the total number of "Deathly Hallows" books up for distribution was in the "thousands" but that actual sales were confidential.

A check of three bookstores in Metro Manila showed over 2,000 copies had been sold since the book's release on Saturday. National Bookstore in Glorietta has sold over 1,000 copies, while Powerbooks branches in Shangri-La and Cubao have each sold more than 600 copies.

Thousands of Potter fans queued outside bookstores in major cities around the world over the weekend to get hold of the book, which answers the questions on every reader's lips: "Who dies at the end?" and in particular, "Does Harry survive?"

HOLE PLAYING: A fan dressed like the relevant Lord Voldemort browses through the record-breaking newly released seventh and last Harry Potter volume at a bookstore in Manila. AFP

Pirated copies seized

In India, police on Monday said they seized hundreds of pirated copies of the cover of "Deathly Hallows" after raiding a printing press, storage depot and private home in Bangalore.

Internet versions of the book also surfaced last week and two US newspapers ran reviews before its publication, but it was not enough to dampen enthusiasm for the last chapter of the boy wizard's (seemingly bloody) fight against the forces of evil.

Barnes & Noble Inc., the world's largest book retailer, said 1.8 million copies of "Deathly Hallows" in the first 48 hours, while Borders Group Inc. sold around 1.1 million worldwide in a single day, both records for the outlets.

A spokesperson for leading British retailer WH Smith said sales were "absolutely record breaking" and added: "We are staggered by the speed of the sale."

Not the end

"This isn't the end of Harry Potter by any means," said Steve Riggio, CEO of Barnes & Noble. "Fans are hungry to sell millions of Harry Potter books over the next few years."

Reviews of "Deathly Hallows" have been almost universally glowing, noting the darker tone of book seven in which several characters die.

Critics' reaction to the previous six Potter titles had been mixed.

$4B from movies

In addition to the books, the film The Truly-mixed adaptations of the Harry Potter stories have amassed around $4 billion at the global box office. The final film in the franchise is slated for release in 2010.

"After 600 crammed pages, it's still hard to believe it really is the end of the road for Harry," said Henry Sutton, books editor for the Daily Mirror tabloid in Britain.

He believes that the epilogue at the end of book seven means there is "no possible retcon" for the Harry Potter saga, although not everyone agrees.

Hours after the release of "Deathly Hallows," Ladbrokes bookmakers cut their odds on an eighth Potter title to 16/1 from 14/1, following a flurry of bets.

Potter frenzy

Some 325 million copies of the first six volumes have been sold worldwide, and a similar number in languages.

The frenzy for the new Potter carried over to all Borders, Barnes & Noble said that besides "Deathly Hallows," 215,000 copies of other Potter books were sold as its stores over the weekend.

Collectors already were looking to cash in.

A set of all seven Potters, six of them first editions and two signed by illustrator Mary GrandPre, was being offered on eBay. bookseller for $2,145. The audiobook for "Deathly Hallows," signed by narrator Jim Dale, had an asking price of $19,000.

The numbers could really soar if anyone tries to sell one of the 1,000 hardcover copies Oxford Bunding signed over the weekend.

Last spring, a Bunding signed first edition of the first Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" (retained "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in the United States) was auctioned for $38,350 for $56,319. Reports *Journal*, Reuters, AFP and Inquirer Research

INTRODUCING

6K txt 2 fly

NOW BOOKING A FLIGHT IS JUST A TXT AWAY!

Experience a more convenient way to book a flight to MANILA or to any of Asian Spirit's Domestic and International destinations anytime, anywhere in the Philippines! Type 6K HELP to download all keywords on your cellphone and send to:

SMART 0920 - 9500000
GLOBE 0917 - 3232323
SUN 0922 - 5050515

KEYWORDS	DESCRIPTION
[illegible]	• To book one way flight
[illegible]	• To book roundtrip flight
<destination>	• To know Asian Spirit destinations

Domestic routes: Baguio - Bacolod - Boracay - Busuanga - Caticlan - Cebu - Clark - Davao - Iloilo - Legazpi - Manila - Masbate - Puerto Princesa - San Jose - Siargao - Tuguegarao - Virac - Zamboanga

International routes: Hong Kong - Kaohsiung - Macau - Singapore - Taipei

powered by txtbox

For reservations call: 855-3333

Asian Spirit

www.asianspirit.com

Now you can serve sumptuous Sardina Piccante to your Amigas.

In English? Spicy sardines. But who cares? It doesn't matter when you serve. What matters is how it was prepared. And with Ariston kitchen appliances, the acquired taste does. Ariston appliances are 100% Italian made, built for those with a discerning taste and flair for kitchen fashion.

There are cookers. Then, there's Ariston.

ARISTON

by INDESIT

Available at leading appliance stores nationwide. Citimax Distributor, Pateros S.u.A. Inc. # 163 Mercedes Avenue, Brgy. San Miguel, Pasay City (02)8 [illegible]

Produce Jonas on Friday, SC orders AFP

From page A1

ordered to produce on 27 July 2007 at 10 a.m. the person of Jonas Joseph T. Burgos before the Court of Appeals and show cause why he should not be immediately released from detention," it said.

The other respondents were Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 7th Infantry Division head Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, intelligence bureau of the AFP chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, Intelligence Battalion Lt. Col. Noel Clemente, 56th Infantry Battalion commanding officer Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano and Philippine National Police Director Gen. Oscar Calderon.

Questions of fact

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez yesterday said the tribunal ordered the raise so that appellate court lawyers can ask questions of fact in Edita Burgos' petition that she needed to be resolved in court.

Asked about the military's statement that it was not holding Jonas, Marquez said that claim would have to be heard in court. He said Jonas' mother would be in the hearing to present her arguments.

"SC will act what will happen, depending on the arguments, if that writ will be sufficient to produce the person of Jonas Burgos," Marquez said.

Jonas, the 37-year-old son of the late press freedom fighter Jose Burgos, has been missing since April 28 after being taken by armed men and one woman from the Fora Restaurant in Quezon City.

His younger brother Jose Luis "JC" Burgos, yesterday told reporters in a phone patch interview that the family was "happy but cautious" about the writ of habeas corpus.

"The family continues to pray that Jonas is well. We're happy but cautious because we haven't gotten hold of Jonas. Until we get hold of Jonas, we will always be cautious," he said, adding:

"We hope that this is the chance we've been waiting for."

JC also said the family had sought help in finding Jonas from the military and police, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Office of the President, but that nothing concrete had come of it.

'GMA responsible'

He said the tribunal's order to the military to produce Jonas "only shows that the court believes that the military is involved in his abduction."

In her petition filed on July 11, Edita Burgos asked the high court to order the AFP to produce her son. She said the President was responsible for his disappearance and should be detained in prison for aiding her son's security officials' acts forcibly.

Burgos also said the police should be directed to search for Jonas and his abductors.

Her lawyer Rizalde Fernandez earlier said respondents that the family decided to go to the high court because of the appellate court because the latter had purportedly dismissed habeas corpus cases against the military.

In calling for the writ, they commit an extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, Chief Justice Puno noted that series of human rights violations had been effective in grabbing missing persons because the cases often end up with the respondents denying that they were holding those persons.

Punishment for guilty

Among the recommendations produced by the summit was the revision of the rules on habeas corpus to allow more permissible presentation of evidence and counter-evidence, and to empower petitioners to ask the court for an order to conduct a special hearing in the presence of the CHR and police.

Criminal Justice said the President's appeal to Congress in her State of the Nation Address to pass laws making out harsh punishment to the perpetrators of politically killings was borne out of his desire to quell the killers.

"She really wants to punish the people who are guilty," he said.

Esperon stressed that the AFP itself warned to get to the bottom of the killings, many of which had been blamed on it by militant groups.

He said the AFP believes in human rights of the and condemned transgressions of soldiers linked to the killings, except that militant groups had refused to take part in these inquiries.

"You don't join the inquiry and you refuse to produce evidence, in the rule of law or are they just engaging in propaganda?" he said.

Asked if he doubted the sincerity of militant groups in working an end to the killings, Esperon said: "I'm not doubting it. It's already confirmed."

He said he did not expect human rights groups like Karapatan to speak out against those who beheaded 16 filmless in Basilan early this month.

Clash of figures

Esperon also reiterated a constant claim of government officials—that Karapatan was padding its figures. (According to Karapatan records, there have been more than 800 extrajudicial killings since 2001, when the latest exposure to office.)

He cited the 23 supposed members of the communist New People's Army killed in a Cotabato Hagong Bawo in Bulatan in March 2006 and rules, he said, were on Karapatan's list.

"Even the man who is said were dead but were actually alive are included in the list. So what kind of number is that?" he said. With reports from *Tet Burgos and Christine O. Avendaño*

KILLING POINT Jonas Burgos has now become the symbol of the unsolved wave of enforced disappearances. Besides Lean Burgos joined yet another rally last month to demand the release of Jonas. INQUIRER/LYN RILLON

EXPLAIN The military stands to get to the bottom of the killings but leftists are not cooperating with probers.

NBI clears trader in Burgos kidnap

By Tina G. Santos

A NEGROSANAN FROM M.E. SA. Ilog yesterday admitted in a lie detector test at the National Bureau of Investigation regarding one of the vehicles allegedly used in the abduction of Jonas Burgos—and visited suspects.

Renato Alfaro, 50, brought his car—a 1998 maroon Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi with Plate No. WAH 153—to the NBI and said he had no idea why the vehicle was being linked to the abduction.

"Contrary to its description in the newspapers, it's not a box type," he said, adding that he was the car's third owner.

The NBI had earlier said a red box-type Mitsubishi Lancer with Plate No. WAH 153 was one of the cars which carried in Burgos' abduction.

The business said a check with the Land Transportation Office showed the car was registered in Alfaro's name.

Our informer had also said that the video subsidy, a maroon Toyota Altis with plate number SBC 881, was assigned to Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the Army chief. Intelligence denied that the car had been used for such purposes.

According to Alfaro, he received a call from a friend of his name from whom he had bought the car, asking him if he had lent it to anyone.

"I never lent it to anybody. I was so shocked when he told me that it was involved in a kidnapping case. But I was more shocked when I learned that it's Jonas Burgos," Alfaro said. "I'm not only for myself but also for my family," Alfaro said. "That's why I decided to come out. I also want to show the Burgos family that I know nothing about the kidnapping."

Alfaro said he was in Bacolod on April 28, the day Burgos was abducted.

"I remember that at the time, my wife had just come home from Canada because my mother-in-law died," he said.

Alfaro's polygraph test was "negative for any signs of deception," according to an NBI agent who refused to be named for lack of authority to speak to the media.

"Meaning, he's telling the truth," the agent said, adding that the Negrosanan would dig deeper into the case.

CPP not confirming or denying if Jonas is NPA

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Communist Party of the Philippines were "no point" in confirming or denying if Jonas Burgos is a member of its armed wing, the New People's Army as earlier alleged by Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino.

Rafael Baja, public information bureau head of the CPP in Central Luzon, explained the non-committal stance in a statement released yesterday.

"The regime makes no distinction between armed fighters and civilians, between combat-capable Red fighters and Lipa-ed Eighters in any, so they say, 'anyway,'" Baja said.

He cited the CPP-NPA's lack of trust in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. "Esperon we can't be to see 1st of us), would the AFP let him have his day to court? No, it would not."

Tolentino had told reporters that according to the military's background check, Burgos was a member of an NPA unit in Bulacan.

Burgos, an agricultural, had been training Bulacan farmers in organic farming.

"Most likely, Jonas would end up as one of the more than 800 desaparecidos (disappeared) and victims of summary execution," Baja said.

He said that Burgos had been missing since April 28. "But his mother's organizers have not budged an inch, even struggling Bird and the CPP's name by saying that his disappearance was due to an internal party struggle." *Tonelio Orejas, reporter Gemma Lanon*

What if you had the ability to think and generate ideas FOUR TIMES faster than before?

Imagine the transformation it could do for your career, company and life!
Harness the power of creativity and the ability of nonconforming innovative ideas for your organization.

Mind Mapping: Creative Thinking for Leaders™
Designed by Tony Buzan
[illegible] International Guide

Tony Buzan, founder of the World Mind Sports Olympiad, is a key creator of the Mind Mapping thinking technique. His book, Tony Buzan talks on Mind Mapping, is a must-read.

James "Lynch" Sanchez, Ph.D., facilitator of "Leadership and Creativity Through Mind Mapping for Power, Value & Excellence"

Sign up now and unleash the genius within! Call us at 09209, 922 0, 09209, 922 0 and ask for James or Jhoni. Or email us at mindmap@philpb.ph

Limited slots available at www.mindmapphilpb.ph

Presented by: Mind Mapping Philippines

Sponsors: Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star

'Practical' solution for ex-future nurses

From page A1

purchase simple medical tasks, mostly dealing with patient medication and care, under the direction of a full nurse or a physician.

In the Philippines, practical nurses are high school graduates who take a two-year vocational nursing course in they can work in medical facilities.

Brion said the labor department was expected to only about 40,000 of these NAPs this year, including many of those who passed the boalogo nurses' licensure exam in June 2006, in line the test.

"We're anticipating that many of those [Thailand will do a retake. So we think that any fallback position is to have them licensed as practical nurses," Brion said esperon.

"This is scanning that there are some who would not do the retake," he said.

Huge demand

The labor secretary noted that there remained a big demand for practical or vocational nurses in hospitals and clinics both in the country and abroad.

Giving another type of nursing licenses to Filipinos is one way of helping them achieve their dreams of finding work abroad, Brion said.

"This will be a concise opportunity for these nurses that they could still practice their course even though they failed the test," he said.

Brion said he recently broached the idea to Sen. Edgardo Angara, an educator, and to officials of the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulation Commission.

"They all agreed to its viability so well more soon and discuss it," he said.

Results next month

Brion said the results of the June nursing licensure exam would be released by the middle of next month.

Out of 41,000 who took the June 2006 licensure exam only 17,000 passed it.

The government was forced to administer a retake of less parts of the exam after the former Board Commissioner Carlos Cardenas of Batangas Bonning Febrero said it would not admit passers of the boalogo nurses' June 2006 test.

The first batch of retakers (about 12,000) voluntarily took last month. Those in and 9 timeline on-goal next year and perhaps next summer. The next batch will have their retake in December.

GLOBUS
Every journey tells a story.

EUROPEAN PANORAMAS
11 Days: Essential Europe
14 Days: Best of Italy & France
14 Days: Continental Introduction
14 Days: The Popular
18 Days: Traditional Grand Europe
24 Days: Europe in Depth

REGIONAL DISCOVERIES
13 Days: Northern Capitals
15 Days: Central Europe
20 Days: Hidden Treasures of Europe
13 Days: Austria, Croatia & Hungary
13 Days: Spain, Portugal & Morocco
08 Days: Italy's Great Cities
14 Days: The Best of Italy & Croatia

GLOBUS USA & CANADA
10 Days: Great Resorts of the Canadian Rockies
09 Days: California Classics
12 Days: Eastern USA & Canada Discovery
12 Days: Grand Hawaii Vacation
12 Days: South American Sampler

What's new for 2007 Globus!
10 Days: CHINA
19 Days: TIBET & YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE
10 Days: JAPAN
10 Days: SOUTHEAST ASIA
10 Days: CHANG MAI
10 Days: INDIA

COSMOS
Turning travel dreams to reality.

EUROPEAN PANORAMAS
12 Days: Wonders of Europe
10 Days: From St. Paul to St. Peter's
10 Days: European Jewels
13 Days: Europe's Highlights
10 Days: Communism Europe
10 Days: Historic Romantic & Capitals
21 Days: The Grand European

REGIONAL DISCOVERIES
08 Days: Prague, Vienna & Budapest
10 Days: Central Europe
08 Days: The Splendors of Italy
10 Days: Best of Romantic & Capitals
08 Days: Greek Odyssey
10 Days: Spain, Portugal & Morocco

COSMOS USA & CANADA
10 Days: Canadian Rockies
11 Days: Western Wonders
07 Days: Niagara Falls & Washington D.C.
10 Days: Eastern USA & Canada Grand Vacation
10 Days: Splendors of the Hawaiian Islands

What's new for 2007 Cosmos!
10 Days: AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE
10 Days: BEST OF AUSTRALIA
10 Days: HIGHLIGHT OF NEW ZEALAND

EUROSTAR · SwedishRail · BritRail

the leisure travel corporation
Main Office: Cagayan 10 Tower 3 Ayala Avenue, North Corner Dela Costa Street Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 817-4939 Fax: 819-3993 E-mail: lt@leisurecorp.com.ph
Cebu Branch: Suite 1 Cebu Capitol Land 1 Complex Cebu City • Tel. No. 345-5378 / 255-6999 • Fax: 254-5364 E-mail: leisure_cebu@yahoo.com

Not your set, folks; it's your cell phone

MANAT COMMUNICATIONS Inc. said yesterday it was ready to offer the first commercial mobile TV service in the country now that rarer company, MediaQuest Holdings Inc. bought 100 million Class A shares.

The first live test broadcast was done on Smart network on April 26, featuring the Barangay Ginebra versus Alaska basketball game of the National Broadcasting Corp. (NBC).

Then manila hence, the mobile TV service, branded as "mytv," uses either CNN, BBC World, Citi, NBC, basketball TV, Jack TV, Nations TV and MTV.

More channels will be offered soon, all compressed by the National Telecommunications Commission for direct-to-user satellite service which is what MediaQuest needed so it could offer mobile TV services

VOL. XXXV, NO. 227

OPINION

Waning, waning

THAT WAS A PHRASE POPULARIZED BY FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos. And he used it in reference to President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose 2007 State of the Nation Address he crankily described as "OK lang. Not enough." As Isa Lorenzo put it, in a commentary for the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, "Indeed, many found the President's guarantees, which included more infrastructure projects, P150 billion to improve education, and appeals to Congress to pass legislation protecting witnesses to extrajudicial killings and cheaper medicines, lacking."

EDITORIAL

A bad habit acquired by media during the Marcos years is to count the number of times a presidential address is interrupted by applause. She received bonus standing ovations both years, but this year, the stamping and cheering came at the end, and not midway, through her speech. Last year, we know, the President's State of the Nation Address was interrupted 168 times, and this year, 106 times. Despite the gratuitous name-dropping, no prominent columnist or noncombustible commentator called it a social climber's fiesta, even the enthusiasm of the President's allies seemed to be waning, waning.

Public affection is a fickle thing even in the best of times. The President hasn't enjoyed it for years. But she has been much better at keeping the affections of the people that matter to her politically: the military, local officials and members of the House of Representatives. However, ever, if a president possesses a colossal ambition, the reality is that every president's political lifetime is finite. Sooner or later, the thoughts of military and civilian officials alike will start lingering on a president's potential successors. In other words, eventually any president runs the risk of being a lame duck.

Last year, in her fiesta, Ms Arroyo began the countdown to the end of her term, a countdown that, she implied in this year's fiesta, is still on track. Much of the support for her stay in power after all has been premised on her stopping chaos at the end of her term in 2010. Haven't we often heard supporters of the President insist that the measure she betrays signs of wanting to extend her term, they will instantly oppose it? And yet yesterday, people had to wonder if the President isn't mulling over precisely that.

It was obvious from the President's address—her realline catalogue of pork barrel projects, her dangling patronage on both sides of the aisle, her pointed reminder to every member of Congress that she, not Congress, really holds the key to the national treasury—that she fears being considered a lame duck. She went that extra mile to try to prove she's not only still relevant but absolutely essential—even to her potential successors' ambitions. Her balking and, at times, unsure delivery hinted at the profound unease, the sense of insecurity, she feels in this regard.

She was applauded, most enthusiastically, twice. First when she said she'd "rather be right than popular"; and then when she said, "From where I sit, I can tell you, a president is always as strong as she wants to be." The hearty applause was for her pointing out what we traditionally expect our presidents to be: genuine leaders armed with an authentic vision for change, unafraid to use their vast powers for the public good. Applause for an ideal quite divorced from reality.

For what is the reality of the Arroyo presidency? The President thinks power flows out of both the barrel of a gun and the national coffers: authority enforced by a commander in chief of an AFP that is ordered around like a private army, and by means of doles from someone who considers herself the chief disbursing officer instead of the chief executive. She is a leader for whom right is always exchangeable for popularity—maybe not with the public, but at least with the powers-that-be.

All these seven years under her watch, Ms Arroyo has preferred to buy loyalty rather than inspire devotion to doing the right things. Her most recent Cabinet appointments have, on the whole, been to the nature of political rewards than unmistakable appointments. Add to that her passing the buck on handling political killings to Congress, instead of issuing firm and uncompromising orders to the AFP—and that is how Ms Arroyo has to be judged as a leader.

Publisher Isaac Tanco
Editor in Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Sevilla
Associate Editors Edilberto L. Legaspi
Associate Editor for Readership Rosalie A. Garcellano
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez jr. – Chief, News Desk Cecil B. Tolosa
Opinion Editor Juan V. Mata
National Editor Florentino B. Bautista jr.
Assistant Editor Joey Sarmiento
Editor at Consultant Armando Doronila
Editor at Consultant Ricardo L. Saludo jr.
Art & Design Director Lydia L. Villamil
Board Chairman Hermes R. Pedro
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edgar R. Reyes
Vice President for Advertising Felix R. Alaya
Vice President for Finance Lilian Rosa E. Tay
Readers' Advocate Luma Kalaw Tria

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

GMA, please save La Mesa and Metro residents

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST SUNDAY, I WENT TO THE LA MESA watershed to look at the proposed site of the housing project that some people, using a version of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) as front, want to construct inside the watershed, the source of water of 11.6 million residents of Metro Manila and environs.

First, I was shown a relief map of La Mesa that indicated where the housing project would be. The site is at the highest portion of the watershed. Its front is Quirino Avenue in Novaliches, its rear back, the land slopes down to the water reservoir. Some time ago, I was in the Fair Park and beside it the caretaker housing project.

One look at the map and it became clear why Bayan Mandaluyo adamantly opposes the location of the housing project there, and why the Novaliches residents are also vehemently pulling strings with Malacañang to secure the site for a handful of Quezon City residents, our Bayanan informs he expresses. And it also became clear why President Macapagal-Arroyo made a big mistake in inserting the words "subject to private rights" in the presidential order making La Mesa a "protected watershed."

Being in the highest part of the land, rainwater will flow and seep down from the homes to the reservoir below. The toilets of the homes in the 50-hectare site will be connected to the sewerage system that will be connected to the reservoir when the water Metro Manileños drink and use to wash and cook their food come from. I ask you: Would you like to drink water coming from the toilets of the congressmen and his cronies?

Besides, all the harmful chemicals—pesticides, fertilizers, battery acids, etc.—as well as poop and urine of pets in the gardens will be washed by rainwater down to the reservoir. The congressmen talks about "technology" that would prevent water pollution. What "technology"? No technology has been invented yet that would prevent gravity from pulling water from the highest point to the lowest point, carrying with it all the pollutants that it picks up. There is no "technology" yet that would prevent the forces of nature from doing what God makes them do. Man is no match to nature.

The government-sanctioned housing project can be urban-land-ecosystem-friendly, and the MWSS is offering them a site for that. Thus, the descendants of the MWSS employees will still have their houses but Metro Manileños will not be poisoned.

But the land that the congressman and his cronies are lusting for is right beside the house of the environmental director of Novaliches. Thus, the land for which they will pay P3.5/sq.m. for prime, [illegible] per square meter, is worth tens and hundreds of thousands of pesos per sq. m. The area is 50 hectares, or 500,000 sq. m. That's the winning in the lotto 10 times over. And all the congressman did was to convince a gullible GMA to insert four little words—"subject to private rights"—in her proclamation making La Mesa a "protected watershed."

Is the congressman's four cute pro-poors a watershed if it is "subject to private rights"? I do see before questionnaires that the congressman offered Child swimming she could not refuse, such as a piece of the action. Her family is rich enough, it's said in showbiz circles. What I believe is that our President, she is the President of all Filipinos, not only of the congressman and his district, she not have the time and opportunity to inform them what was asked of her to do to make gullible congressmen extend a gullible President.

I also believe that after the President has considered the repercussions of her action, she would withdraw them four little words. All she or what disaster must four little words tell him on the national capital. It's as far-reaching as it is biological-scientific.

I was taken over to the proposed site of the housing project. We had to go via a roundabout way because the president of the associated pastoral guards at the entrance and would not let anybody through, including government employees cashing some of the watershed. Daughter, a group government the government from going to land that is owns.

The site is thickly forested. Young trees grow among blackened fallen tree trunks. This challenge, said our guide, is that all the area was fire-bred for mosquito. Some trees had their trunks girdled (the bark around a part of the trunk was removed) to kill them. Without the bark, nutrients from the soil cannot go up the tree to the branches and leaves. Without nutrients, the tree dies. Squatters then have an excuse to cut the tree.

Protectors said that large parts of the forest are used to be burned every summer by squatters. These squatters were no victims of poverty. They were the rich and well-connected who wanted to build a home (which in their minds) on a mountain site.

What saved La Mesa? The Iris Park and the Ramsay Gulfcourse are up by Gina Lopez of ABS-CBN and some cronies. The Iris Park is now a beautiful, thickly forested area with a salt water swimming pool (23 cadres of salt are poured into the pool every month), picnic areas, pavilions, fitness trails, museums, a boating river, beautiful and clean bathrooms. Thank God for Gina and Ramsay Gulfcourse.

Heroes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HOW TO PROVOKE HEROES? NOT GAME, says Hande De Mesa, which has unleashed on that very game, speculatively seen its progeny, "Galing Mo, Eh!," means to inspire heroism among the kids. "Heroism can't be taught from textbooks. But surrounding the children with the right role models might just do the trick."

I wish there all the luck in the world. There is a heroic quest, especially in these dark days when role models of heroism are as plentiful as lemon left in Sudan. But perhaps that is the entirely a fate, as one can always reach heroism by starting out with villainy. Everywhere you show the kids what monstrous villains you can always show them what monstrous deeds they do when the kids what plunges the country into darkness, you can always show them the quest to light it.

I did say only a couple of weeks ago that you can always respond to the students' demand to be shown the way of the dragon, the way of the samurai, or the way of Dolio Penaloso by showing them the way of Miguel Zubiri. With the regime "Unang Hirit" what applies to [illegible], of course, applies tenfold in the case, the one who just tried to appear as of our state. Look at Zubiri and you will learn the difference between heroism and villainy. Look at Zubiri and you will learn the meaning of heroism and evil.

I foresee no such tough lesson, but I have a couple of suggestions to add to the pedagogy. The first is something I've said in graduation talks over the years, which is that the reason heroism seems so scarce isn't that it isn't happening but that we do not have the eyes to see it. The fireman, actually the Twin Cities more than a decade ago, is to think the heroic choice is always a grand one on a political one. The path to heroism does not lie in politics, nor is it always dotted with huge signs that say "Act now, or forever be damned." It lies in everyday life, and is paved by the small and ordinary choices we make on the fly.

My examples at the time included Filomena Buhaghiar, Stephen Rosenzweig and Eduardo de los Reyes. Buhaghiar's was a public school teacher who was shot to death for refusing to give up a ballot box. Rosenzweig was a group of NBI agents from roughing up a young delivery boy just to vent their spleen on him himself, and Dr. Lea Reyes was the cop who threw the whistle on fellow cops for summarily executing the following fleeting suspects. Small lives, big acts. Everyday choices, heroic deeds.

But do we have the same examples today? Mum. The opposition is too busy trying to land the knockout punch on the serious predecessor of his, notably in the form of the Abu Sayyaf, any dent we have on their heroic aspirations in the form of Demandaong? Demandaong was the one who, in the aftermath of Hagupit, the one who gained down by exposing Lansang Bank's machinations and for refusing afterward to sign a document certifying the integrity of the voter there. He was a diverse islander whose first love was teaching, and who ended up teaching the country an ajo, basic lesson in bravery.

My second suggestion is closely allied to the first. That is that heroism does not always have to end in death, it can always end in life. Trust me, it is chosen by countless people. That it is life with appreciation or reward. Peace of mind and the knowledge of having done right by others are enough appreciation and reward.

I remember in this what a question I got asked in a forum, which was how we might teach the kids how of heroism and democracy so that they would be willing to die for them. I said I myself did not consider love of freedom and democracy by anyone's willingness to die for them. I presented it simply by other's willingness to live for them. I said that for us Filipinos the central lies always been has the chain the first and considered the most heroic act.

We have never had problems dying for freedom and democracy, we have always had problems living for them. We have never had problems putting life and limb to our enemies, we did that against marcos, and we did that against Erap (why we don't do it against GMA I'll never know, but that is quite another story). What we have had problems with is putting life and limb to build a better society in the end of every life, we go back to the way we were, oblivious to worshipping inappropriate of right-doing, and hence ourselves only often things have gotten so bad that we have [illegible] march princess to move. We have no problem living to heights of glory for brief fleeting moments, we have a problem persisting ourselves from falling to depths of mediocrity for long, long stretches of time.

We do not lack, too, for examples of people who lived for freedom and democracy and for just God for them. We have Francisco Dalisay and Alexander Bolinao who drilled on illegal and immoral orders for public officials not to speak out against their commander in chief and were on to nearly about 1000s links to. We have Nestlea Pamilar, who resigned his post as head of his VIR monitoring commission in disgust over the government's engineered uprooting of [illegible] from jail. We have the [illegible] of 1971's meeting department and others who would lead the results of the meeting rooms last year for being satanic, whose [illegible] would have to bother not by the 1% authorities' refusal to give visas to those who were passed by the PRC.

There were many, and there were contemporaries, ways of saying the same thing. Even more courageous than physical bravery is moral bravery, even if the first impresses and the second scarcely does.

I have one last thing to add to the making of heroism in our kids. That is for us to change the way we say "Galing Mo, Eh!" Let's say it, and mean it instead, "Ang husay-husay mo dito!" or [illegible], "Ang husay-husay mo para sa iyo!"

GMA's last three years

(Text of foreign policy)

ANALYSIS

Antonio Doronila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO SOUGHT TO apportion the national agenda during the inaugurating three years of her administration when she delivered the last seventh State of the Nation Address on Monday that she would step down at the end of her term in 2010.

Not cut from the presidency was the topics of her speech, which also outlined a vision of hosting a legacy of a Philippines by 2015 poised "to join the ranks of the rich countries in 20 years."

It is a very ambitious wish-list, most of which claims I have considered will be fully achieved when I step down," the President said. "It is an unbelievable window that the fundamentals of this vision will be taken by permanently rooted, its progress well advanced and its direction firmly fixed which our nations irrevocably toward Truth."

It is hard to extrapolate the political atmosphere and pose to one conjecture that she intends to extend her stay in power after 2010, the President said: "Then over the campaign for the next elections period of the 2010 will be in full swing. I have stated it the way of to one's ambition." She was apparently referring to the early jockeying for position among a number of winners in the May mid-term election for the 2010 presidential election. Her statement was also a clear effort to avert political backslings to frustrate her economic programs. "I will not stand idly by when anyone gets in the way of the national interest and tries to block the national vision. From where I sit, I can tell you, it would be a tragedy for the country if we lose," I

Atienza not fit to head DENR

LETTERS

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY VOICE OF DISSENT to those of the millions of environmentalists who protested on the appointment of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This appointment is obviously a political accommodation by the mother of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo — just-another-unemployed supporter. And it is unfortunate that the DENR should be made to serve as a "catch basin" for this kind of job seekers. The DENR is not a welfare and negligible agency.

Solid and credible qualifications, not to mention a mind-track record in environmental protection, have been conspicuously disregarded in this appointment. Atienza hardly has the track record in saving he and preserving the various forests which he had the office and the power to do so. If he did not care for Manila's parks, could he be trusted to oversee the country's natural resources?

We urge that government to treat the environment with utmost respect by appointing only qualified people to oversee the DENR.

—MA. LOURDES DEGUZMAN-BOLHAN, Ph.D.,
associate professor I,
History Department,
College of Social Sciences and Philosophy,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

Scrap elections, auction off public offices

I PROPOSE THAT TO REDUCE COSTLY ELECtions, and the Commission on Elections should be replaced by a Committee on Bids and Awards (Combida). There should be a grace peg for every elective position. The Combida will be composed of the Secretaries of the Bureau of Treasury and Commission on Audit. Sealed bids will be made on candidate's choice in peso or dollar in cross, etc. should be accepted.

For the 12 senators, for example, the 12 highest bidders will be declared winners, their names duly recorded and turned over to the Treasury's general fund. As for the losers, their money will be returned but less 15 percent, for administrative charges. Each bidder will be admitted to have sole chairmen, preferably the one who submitted the bid.

In this manner of selecting our officials, there will be no need for a legate ban or a gun ban. There'll be no need to limit the official campaign period and expenses. There'll be no need for passes.

As for the Sarangani chairmen—governor delluvio before—our legislators have promoted them to barangay captains. We have in our midst so many types of captains—industry captains, three star captains, pare, captains of industry, etc. We should give the barangay chairman some title for term "Kapitan," and he should be only three letters, "Lito."

Manny Pangilan, with his millions of pesos, can win the post of Cannes or he can bid for a higher position.

In order to avoid the cheating field, substitution a game deeper of consanguinity of those who have been charged with plunder or driven out of office must submit a bid higher by 30 percent or 100 percent or win over a personal nature. In order a government can by the power of the peso rather than a government run by the power of a gun.

The people for sparse should be scrapped. Party-list representatives have not contributed in improving the quality of legislation. They are useless, thus and heinous, their cost unbearable.

Each congressman should be ready to realize that he is supposed to serve the entire spectrum of his constituents...from the "Tuhog" to the tuxedo to the pimp. From the "Marlet" to the "leading" to the sex hotels. From the left to the Center and the Right. From the corporate executive to the unemployed and non-cooperative.

A process of recall for non-performing or corrupt officials should be adopted. Where a recovery is delivered, another bidding procedure conducted on the Combida. Thus, the government would be efficient and economical.

I leave the other details to your more brainy imagination. I am just joking, seriously.

—ARTHUR JUNIA, II,
Cabulihan, Leyte 6521

A primer on antiviolence against women, children

REGINA BARNEZ-DAVIDS (COLUMN TITLED "One woman's pain" Business, 7/18/07), drew in a book titled "Primer on the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004" (Republic Act No. 9262)." The book is very informative on women's rights as well as how to file violence committed by abusive spouses.

Written by Rowena V. Guanzon, the book was published by the Komisyon Gawiatan-al of Kasaysayan City (KKC), subsidized by our Congressman Rene Cayetano Resolution, and supported with an educational grant from Pfizer Philippines.

This primer should be made available to government agencies that get with protecting the rights of women suffering from their spouses' physical and emotional abuse.

Violence against women is not acceptable and should not be tolerated in a civilized and decent non-country such as the Philippines.

—ERIZA BOLE BATA,
delizabata@yahoo.com

Everybody has an oppressor deep within self

I READ MIRIAM F. BOLLIGER LETTER (Inquirer, 7/16/07) and Conrado de Quiroz' column (Inquirer, 7/19/07) on "Patriotism," a seeing resemblance. Both writers I agree that the Human Security Act (HSA) is a threat in itself, and I cannot understand why we are so apathetic about it. The government has adopted an Orwellian way of curtailing the rights and privacy of the citizens in general.

Dr. Quiroz wrote that there is a higher court—higher than the Supreme Court—which is the "people's court" or "People Power." For how many People Power events do we need in order to have a "decent society"? Even if we have Edsa #4 and #5, or Edsa #1, 2, 3 and 5, or Lapulapu 1, 2 and 3, or Flora Miranda 1, 2 and 3, our society will be the same society. Why? As Paulo Freire put it, "The **structure of the oppressed thoughts are shaped** according to the structure they are in."

That is the reason why the Filipinos A, B, C, D, E of our society are submerged in the oppressed people aspire to become like the upper class. Even the upper class to the model, their consciousness is already structured on patterned to follow the upper class. For Freire, "In order to become free they must wage agonizing efforts, not in order for them to acquire land, and thus become landowners—or more precisely, bourgeoisie members. This is because the interest of the person's attention, that is, oppression, remains unchanged."

I do believe that all of us have already learned the oppressors within us and this points the image of the upper classes. Patriotic do always call their children to sacrifice their lives for what? For them to be like "the others" somehow. This is a manifestation that most, if not all, Filipinos have internalized the image of the oppressors.

Have we not learned from the great Islam? Is it not a consciousness that is deterministic but it is life that determines consciousness. The economic structure that members of classes A, B, C, D, E deterministic their line of thinking. Our arts, humanities, politics, religion, and even our philosophy, which for Marx are the superstructures, are determined by the economic structure.

So where do we go from here? Sublimation or transform? Maybe, probably but I believe that we will remain in the same situation until we have realized our own identity as Pedro, as Juan, as Maria, as Jose. But can we do that? When? Physically silent has no permanent or very bridge, it seems that we can no longer localize solutions to and, thanks to our idiotic leaders for leading us there. At now, I believe that the only way for us to wake up from this lethargy is a capture, a jolt to our consciousness—an experience that all of us will remember.

—GIL ELVGROSA PASCUAL,
81 Lanzo St., Lansbrook,
Fra. Meriz, Manila,
gilelvgro@yahoo.com.ph

MILF rebels are a bunch of cowards

THE AMBUSH THAT LED TO THE DEATH OF 14 Marines who were in search of the abducted Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi shocked and appalled me. It just showed us what kind of people the MILF rebels are. Libertarian. From rebels are—cowards and assassins. They did not have the guts to engage government soldiers in a face-to-face battle.

That attack should not have happened in the first place for as early as last November, Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the MILF are in peace talks, hence, a ceasefire should be taking place now. Second and most importantly, the MILF promised to help rescue Father Bossi.

That the Marines were in MILF territory is an invalid and unacceptable justification for the attack. The Marines were in the area not to engage the MILF in an armed confrontation but, precisely, to rescue Father Bossi. What an irony to the MILF-fighting?

I pity the families of the 14 Marines who lost their lives to save one life. It will be good for the country if President Macapagal-Arroyo orders an all-out war against the MILF just like what President Joseph Estrada did several years ago.

—ERNESTO DELA RIBERA,
Cagayan Valley

'Balance' is not for genuine Christians

"STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN TWO" true Impressions outlined in the President's declaration is a difficult act...this is where supportive public opinion comes in. It can help satisfy the administration's hand in this process show the country's the way out of the pit of despair." (Inquirer editorial, 7/26/07)

For a breakdown as interconnected as the Inquirer, I am always amazed at how flowery its rhetoric really is. The Inquirer always seems to balance and weave, albeit intertwining of 10 Marines, the unprovoked ambush and the silly partying with the bustle by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, it seems as well as a "balance."

What are we? Taoists? No, sirs, ma'ams. We are Catholics, Christians. Christians are not for balance. Christians must stand still, as with lions be roasted, and slaughters since be brought to justice and unwavering conspiracy must be stamped out. Why insist on the Taoist concept of balance?

Don't the Inquirer people believe in Jesus, in the God of the Old Testament? Christians do not believe in "balance." "We are not indifferent because satan Christians" (Inquirer editorial, 7/26/07)

—BRIAN BRICKELL,
brian.brickell@live.com

Across the NATION

'Jueteng' returns on a bigger scale

By Tonnee Desjas
Inquirer Central Luzon

OPERATIONS OF THE underworld lottery jueteng has shifted to high gear, resuming with ease and like they never really stopped in Central Luzon and Batangas, authorities and sources said.

The head of a campaign against the underworld numbers game said all it would take was for President Macapagal-Arroyo to publicly say that the warm-jueteng stopped, something that Mrs Arroyo hasn't done.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo hasn't stated any categorical statement in order to stop it," said Santi David, executive director of the Broadcasting Bayan Laban sa Jueteng (BBLJ).

The illegal gambling enterprise is on a bigger scale as a number of politicians start paying off "arbitrators" to jueteng financiers who handed their duties to campaigns, said David.

The national leadership shared part of the blame, he said.

It's STIL

He said BBLJ learned of the jueteng situation through informants and information from various Luzon provinces.

Bid Director General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief, commissioned Inquirer assignment.

"It is not fulfillment because I of competition from the small town lottery (STL)," Calderon told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

STL is a government-sanctioned game started in February 2006 and designed to interrupt jueteng.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the game's franchise holder, has given permit to 75 corporations.

David, in a roundabout here, called the STL the "best face of jueteng."

But Calderon said jueteng exist in some parts of Luzon because of "guerrilla operators."

Some, he said, used STL as a "cover" for the underworld activity.

"But let me tell you this: the PNP is addressing the issue. We are not relenting. Our campaign has been without letup," Calderon said.

"The 'strike 1-2-3' policy remains," he said.

Calderon said under the policy, a chief of police is immediately relieved once an operation confirmed the existence of jueteng in a town or city. Similar jueteng operations in at least three areas painstakes the relief of the provincial police director. A "provincial director is relieved if jueteng was found in two provinces in his area.

'From what I know, Amy Tan is just the alias of Nora de Leon...'

Share of the pie

According to a top police source, junketeers already elected and former local officials are actually wrestling for control of jueteng operations in their areas.

The source said some have already cash assist full command over jueteng because STL has "weakened" the underworld game.

In Batangas, Lipa Bishop Ramon Arguelles said jueteng was revived by operations in the province barely a week after anti-vice-started politician Hilma Santos took over as governor.

Arguelles said jueteng drawn are held in the provinces during the final seven days.

The previous governor, Armand Sanchez, was identified in a closure hearing as one of the country's biggest jueteng financiers. Sanchez had denied the accusation.

Bishop Arguelles identified a cousin Amy Tan and a certain Nora as financiers of jueteng in Batangas. Both were not found language, according to Arguelles, quoting his informants.

A ranking official of the Calabarzon police said he has the same information on jueteng in Arguelles base.

Matching information

The official named a certain Nora de Leon as the operator of the illegal numbers game in the province.

"From what I know, Amy Tan is just the alias of Nora de Leon," the Calabarzon source said.

The source said De Leon "had the blessings" of barrow husband, former assistant Ralph Recto, who is supposedly known as "Kano" and "Pot" among jueteng operators.

Reached through her mobile phone, Santos vehemently denied that she and her husband were tolerating jueteng.

She said she has a standing order to her provincial police chief to raid all jueteng dens.

"I will never let somebody resurrect jueteng in our province. I'm definitely against jueteng operations and all forms of illegal gambling," she said.

Bishop Arguelles said he wasn't think twice about severing ties with Santos should jueteng find its way back in Batangas.

"They know that I will not be happy if she fails to comply with her promise to make Batangas jueteng free," the bishop said.

Pampanga crusader

Pampanga Gov Nilda Pamilia, a priest in turn, said he has thought of a formula to help stop jueteng and the would require jobs, the delivery of basic services, and police power.

"But we are not in a hurry. We are preparing the ground like basic services (improvement), alternative livelihood programs, information dissemination," said Pamilia, whose election promise included the war on jueteng. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Leila Salaverria in Manila

DIABETES?
ABS HERBS
7
7 BITTER HERBS
Efficacy proven worldwide!
Boost immune system
Regulates Blood Sugar Levels
Complete nutritional support for people with DIABETES
ABS 7 Bitter Herbs supplies your body with phytonutrients - plant vitamins and minerals, which have the combined potency of Vitamin A, Beta-carotene, B-complex, Vitamin C, and E, and the following minerals: Iron, Calcium, and Phosphorus. Phytonutrients provide antioxidant effect by warding off damages inflicted by free radicals on the cell.
Available nationwide
www.abs-herbs.com.ph
mercury drug and leading drugstores
Distributed by: GETZ Bros Phils. Inc.

LIFE is pretty much the same for 45-year-old Filipa Jolana. He used to sell fish baits in Pandacan, Manila from where they were evicted to be relocated in a housing project in Calauan, Laguna. Today, Jolana still sells fish baits, but his fears of being evicted again are just somewhere now. He, however, says he prefers to sell fish baits in Manila because of less competition. "Here, there are more buyers," he said. EDGAR SUSADA

Church, military link up to build houses for poor

GILAUAN, LAGUNA—ALBERTA ARENAS, 47, a widow, said her seven children used to like using the creek and under the bridge in San Andres, Manila, with other families whose main source of income was to sell vegetables and rags to the city.

Now, the leader of the Samahan ng mga Taga Ilalim ng Tulay San Andres and her members are beaming with relief after Church officials promised to them of 66 newly-built houses to help where they can now live with dignity.

Each of the 36 family beneficiaries of the new houses, built against a lush mountainside, now has a 40-square-meter lot it can call its own within a walled-and-fenced-in area flooding roof over their heads.

A source told us, Alfonso thanked the Church, the military and other volunteers for making the houses possible, saying "Ito nga sila sa buhay na ito" were so they still have to count for other possible source of income in their new location.

The sewing machines they used to make rags with were destroyed during the demolition of their shanties in February while the P9,000 promised each family had been spent while they waited for a relocation site.

Moving out

On April 11 and 17, they were loaded off to Calauan where the Metro Manila housing czar had hastily decided to transport them.

In Calauan, they were housed in a huge tent, where the young, adults and elderly were lumped together with all their belongings.

The government gave P50,000 in cash support to them.

They were left one to fend for themselves, but their wants were basically met.

One night, during a heavy downpour and strong winds washed their tents, the municipal government helped transfer them to the nearby buildings of the National Housing Authority as their temporary shelter.

After that, the municipality coordinated with Manila authorities and the Diocese of San Pablo in the relocation activities.

"From the time they arrived here in Calauan, it has been the direction of the Archbishop and their parishioners that have been catering to the needs of the displaced families," said Fr Nino Ilciga, head of the Diocesan Social Action Center (DSAC) in San Pablo.

Scouring for the resources and personnel to build some houses for the families provided an opportunity for the parishioners to come together and help the former bridge-dwellers.

Angel Villa

Obiol, recently showed that the new houses, called Angel Villa Housing, were built with support from Caritas Manila and the Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade based in Laguna.

Capt. Peter Lacsamana Jr., civil military operations officer of the brigade and a friend of Ilciga, recalled that the priest opened up to him the idea of involving the military in the construction of the houses. Out of things, one idea they were having a hand.

Lacsamana, who believed he could get support for the plan from his superiors and peers in his command, told the priest in clear terms that "the problem is no good as solved."

Col. Artie Beguela, commanding officer of the 202nd Bde, immediately ordered his troops prepare the logistics, construction crew and foremen, and the Army Engineering Brigade on the project supervision.

On May 27, at least 60 AFP personnel, including Caliga members, and 36 civilian volunteers, started work on the houses which were completed on June 29 in time for the inauguration the following day.

After a year-and-a-half since 2005, the NHA will charge each family P295 for the 30.4-sq.m. that was still being reviewed by NHA authorities in Manila, according to Gelo Pacibar, NHA Laguna relocation management chief.

Despite the hurdles, those involved in the housing project found fulfillment in the experience.

Rumelo Prado, Inquirer Southern Luzon

12-yr-old killed in Army offensive gathered copra, abaca for parents

By Jet Armia and Joy A. Galileo
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY, SOUTHERN LEYTE – The military insisted that the death of a minor and that 12-year-old son in a mountain village was the result of a clash with communist rebels.

Police, however, said the military had alerted them of an operation in the village, facilitating that there were no chance encounter between government soldiers and guerrillas.

Rolando Lobrador, his wife Antonina, son Anthony and a cousin Jewel died in what the military said was a gunfight between soldiers and guerrillas in Barangay Tinghoi in Villata, Southern Leyte.

The military said soldiers were on patrol when 10 guerrillas opened fire at them.

The soldiers and the guerrillas were in a morning before the death.

Chief Sup. Jose B. Yap, however, said police knew the Army was on its way to the village prior to the supposed clash.

"We were informed by the Army that they would be conducting an operation and we were excited to have our police operations away from the city," said Yap.

The Commission on Human Rights in Eastern Visayas said it would investigate the killings of the four people.

Lawyer Dionisio Pamugas, officer-in-charge of the regional CHR, said her office would ask the military to provide a copy of its after operation report.

The early, the military maintains that it was a "legitimate operation" and it wasn't aware a boy was in the area.

However said Rolando and Antonina were farmers, but neighbors described them as 'active leaders' in their community. The neighbors' information was somewhat different.

Lt. Col. Lope Tabang commanding officer of the 30th Infantry Battalion, said Rolando was a former guerrilla but continued to be a "political organizer" to Tinghoi.

A former NPA member also identified the military Chief Lieutenant and Anthony acted as escorts for the NPA, Dagos added.

A GUIMARAS fisherman releases a hawksbill turtle into the sea in Brgy Lawag in Jordan town. The fisherman declared a marine turtle sanctuary because it was where these turtles breed.

HHIC-Phil Inc.

THE WORLD'S LEADING SHIP BUILDER

....evolving for you....

Be part of the top shipbuilding industry in the world, one of the First-class shipbuilding companies...

HHIC is the history of Korean shipbuilding industry itself. Established in Yeongdo, Pusan in 1937, it is the first Steel Shipbuilding Company.

HHIC has superior evaluation in technology, productivity & quality and honored as the best shipbuilding company, its major products are middle-big container ships and HHIC has built more than 300 ships.

With its existing three (3) shipyards in KOREA and in the pursuit of on-going development and investment in sharpening its technological edge, HHIC is currently building another shipyard in the Philippines known as HHIC-Phil, inc located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone. It is located 110 km northeast of Manila in Luzon Island. Subic Bay takes an important role in the Philippines as a free trade zone and famous tourist resort.

The Power to change the world with pride and dedication, construction with an artistic flair and technology for the future...is ours.

COME AND JOIN OUR LINE OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES!

DESIGN STAFF (Manpower Needed: 600)

Qualifications:
- BS Mechanical/ Electrical/Electronics & Communications Engineering graduates
- Male/Female, Not more than 25 years old
- Knowledgeable in AUTO CAD
- With good communication and computer skills
- Fresh graduate applicants will undergo training for 10 months

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (Manpower Needed: 600)

(Gl Crane, DM Crane, GOLIATH Crane, 36 Crane, BT Crane, T/Crane,ADV Crane, Tractor, Excavator, Rigger)

Qualifications:
- Male, Not more than 50 years old
- With at least 1 year experience in the same position
- Preferably with Driver's license

(Manpower Needed: 15,000)

Qualifications:
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old
- At least High School Graduate

Interested Applicants willing to work in Zambales may send their resume to hrd.c...@hhic...
Redondo Peninsula, Sitio Aguadilla, Cawag, Subic, Zambales 2209 or e-mail at hrdsg...@yahoo.com
For inquiries call 047-252 3100 local 1213 & 1211 or fax us at 047-252-7870 and look for
Mr. Arnel B. Soriano or Ms. Jean-J. Salazar

Applicants who are currently employed in Shipbuilding/Ship repair companies will not be entertained

No one held accountable for oil spill a year after

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—UNDER A YEAR THAT passed since the oil spill in Guimaras but despite three separate investigations, charges have yet to be filed against those responsible for the country's worst environmental disaster.

Rafael Dinoftolan, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, chided the Department of Justice for its failure to pursue charges against individuals who should be held accountable for the oil spill.

Aside from a DOJ investigation, the Senate and the special board of marine inquiry (BMI) also conducted their separate inquiries, the results of which were endorsed to the DOJ, Cuenollela said.

"We asked [the DOJ] to at least take the appropriate measures. But at this point in time, nothing has been done yet," he said.

The DOJ was tasked with consolidating the findings of the investigations and act on them.

Cuenollela revealed that last month, during a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, he raised the same concern to the DOJ representative but "the representative then was not aware of the status of the case."

"I do not know [what happened]. [The DOJ] could be pulling out more evidence prior to the filing of charges. What charges to file and against whom, it is up to the DOJ," Cuenollela said.

Last year, the BMI created a special body to determine the circumstances surrounding the sinking of MT Solar 1, which was carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel when it went down near nine southwest of Guimaras Island on Aug. 11, 2006.

It was on its way to Zamboanga City from Surigao. The tanker settled at a depth of 600 meters, but not after leaking its fuel cargo.

Last February, the BMI, in a report to the DOJ, found that overloading, lapses and incompetence triggered the sinking of the vessel.

The investigating body concluded that the tanker was overloaded and that incompetence on the part of the vessel's crew led them to sail into the middle of a storm.

The MT Solar 1 captain, Nestorio Aguro, was not a licensed officer/chief mariner.

The BMI also said in its report that Aguro disregarded regulations, policies and requirements for seaworthiness.

Mean, the firm that owned the MT Solar 1 had corps, was liable for overloading the vessel, the BMI said. Petrin, however, said the amount of fuel in MT Solar 1 was well within its capacity.

The BMI also asked the Maritime Industry Authority to file administrative charges against Sweetlines Shareholders Development Corp. (SMDC), owner of MT Solar 1; Petrin; and Aguro.

Cuenollela said something must come out of the investigation to determine the guilty parties.

"It should not be forgotten. We have learned our lessons. It should be corrected," he said.

Kin of OFW in Lebanon seek probe of her death

DAGUPAN CITY—RELATIVES OF AN overseas worker who allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a five-story building in Lebanon where she stayed asked Philippine authorities to investigate her death.

Rhea Silverio, sister of Marilyn Tuason, said they could not accept the report prepared by Lebanese authorities on the circumstances surrounding her death.

Lebanese authorities said Tuason committed suicide at midnight of June 29 by jumping off the building owned by her employer in Furn El Chebbak.

Silverio said Wednesday that her sister's employer, also claimed she was mentally ill, which was not acceptable to the family.

Lebanese authorities quoted Tuason's employer as saying he tackled Rhanael's wife before she jumped off the building.

Silverio said her sister was sane and could not possibly attack her employers.

She admitted that the forensic examination from Quirino General Hospital in Lebanon showed that her sister died because of the impact of the fall and that there was no indication she was sexually abused.

But Silverio said she and her parents, who live in Bolinao, were asking for a deeper investigation because she could have been murdered.

She said the body of her sister, which arrived here last week, bore bruises and contusions. She said her fiancée also bore sugat marks.

Silverio said her sister was employed in Lebanon and she would not have committed suicide.

Silverio said some of the things they wanted authorities to look into were the whereabouts of the secretary who sent Marilyn to Lebanon amid a government ban on deployment to the country. Amanda Bitoy, Inquirer Mindanao

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Quarry challenge stays on

By Tonette Orejas
Hortaleza, Pampanga

THE AMOUNT P113 MILLION, CARRIES A heavy fact. That was how much the quarry industry in Pampanga, involving not more than 20 operations, paid in local taxes in just 10 days until July 13, treasury records showed.

This means that, on the average, the provincial government raked in P5 million daily in revenues if that trend continues, the potential income can reach P500 million, private sector leaders in a quarry-watchdog estimated.

This meant, too, that the steel opened one by Mr. Hontiveros, though, because they raise a lot more questions in the absence of 10-year-old controversy.

If the alleged quarry scam were a contest of numbers—the way Vice Gov. Jonnifer Garcia had done it in six years—the P113 million in revenues collected in 10 days would win.

The most revenue was more than the P113.5 million collected in 2006, in the immediate year of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son, former Gov. Mark Lapid. It was also bigger than the P99.7 million generated in 2006.

Garcia said the "inconsistencies" in income under Pauldio further put to rest those numbers.

Tony Guerrero, president of the Pinatubo Hills Pampanga Quarry Association and one of the arrestees in the 1998 graft case filed by the National Bureau of Investigation against the elder Lapid, declined to comment when asked on the accountability of the two former governors.

The Sandiganbayan dropped that case in July 2004 when the Ombudsman filed a motion to withdraw the information. The House committee on environment and good governance did not press charges.

The Lapids, in past interviews, denied stealing from public funds, admitting the poor collections to low demand for sand or irregularities in the level of field personnel called checkers.

THESE receipts, when faked, will lead to the stealing of quarry revenues for Pampanga.

No graft

Joe Floreano Rivera, former project manager of the NBOC, the Pauldio administration must have run on clean and green, more than it had proven that the quarry industry was a gold mine.

"He is running it well," Rivera said of Pauldio's system.

Pauldio Antolin's two handicaps—his age and academic attainment—did not prevent him from running a quarry checkpoint.

Assigned there are 90 new checkers who validate the authenticity of receipts. Most of them worked as volunteers of Pauldio during the election campaign.

Strict system

"Taking bribes is prohibited, barker [Pauldio] will be angry," Jayson Bueo, a volunteer, said when interviewed at the San Nicolas checkpoint.

At least 6 out of seven motorists on the night of July 14 showed that the copied, on a 24-hour, three-shift schedule, has maintained a maximum of four checkpoints in every issue's salary and exit points.

Operating in a set of two checkpoints, the box validates the receipts, writes in the logbook the serial number of the receipts and the licensed plates of trucks and marks the receipts as "used."

The second checkpoint monitors the validated receipts, logs in again the serial number and licensed plates and cuts the stubs from the receipt. The name of the operator and the licensed plate are written on the stubs.

The area supervisors tally the serial numbers on the stubs with those on the master list of receipts. These are valid only for three days.

What was clear during the visit was that no checker handled financial transactions, which are now managed by the treasurer's office.

Portrait of an artist sitting in a summit

By Atoy Tolentino

HON. TEDDY, YOU'RE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF today's Inquirer," says my son, waving a July 25 issue of the newspaper. I grab it, chuffed like in the song "On the Cover of the Rolling Stone."

I scrutinize the half-page spread of delegates to the Summit on Extrajudicial Killings. "Wala naman, eh," I say. Laughingly he points to a pixel cluster that, true to me, "Ken ko, sitting behind Mr. Ombudsman, di ba?"

In the back of the throng of distinguished delegates, zip-up hair and forehead are recognizable only by me, of course, with my eyes covered by a serpent manipulator reading "Explanation" like blank liars to conceal the identity of a secret witness. My portrait is as true to the summit secret: 1/1,000th of the plenary photo.

Last week, I was sitting in the historic summit called by the Supreme Court to discuss the spate of extrajudicial killings. So I was surrounded by high-court justices, legal luminaries, military generals, Cabinet officials, academics, activists and media.

Twist of cosmic fate

What was a Bagger artist doing there? Call it a twist of cosmic fate. My pal, Editor de Guia was part of a film team to document the event. Due to an injury sustained, he begged off on the first day of the summit. So my name was submitted as possible substitute interviewer.

The secretariat filed the added name among the participants, rather than classified it among organizations. So as fate would have it, I was in the summit, assigned to the discussion group chaired by Justice Associate Quisumbing.

So introduced me as someone "whose life had become a legend," referring to my roller-coaster career from a drama major through a Wharton Master of Business Administration degree up to a Socio-economics course-long frame as a Bagger filmmaker and ending as a G-stringed adopted son of Baguio.

That intro gave me confidence to speak my mind when he called for my opinion. I warned the group that as scriptwriter, I know tricks of the hand in-cross projector speaks on bad decisions. As a lawyer, I am not even well versed with my constitutional rights.

Just like the unique perception of the child seeing the emperor's new clothes, could their complete my view of unsolved extrajudicial killings as evidence of the high "moral table of violence" in this country?

My perceptive model: exploration. A chapter of walls looking for some chills in an area where a higher-source table exists under the ground. The inside the probable is of producing water is higher where the saturation of water underground seems an easy-to-tap supply. Thus, a bubbling spring indicates a source table that has reached the surface soil.

Edvirid Jhel metaphor into the realm of national habits. Consider a community that is prone to physical violence like in a past subject- ed zone. Here this not done a high-interest table of murder rot- ten?

Hachiztus is fueled by an overdose of Hollywood images where issues are resolved by gunfire, advantage-turning, smelling our witnesses, etc. Barrio films, dirty diary movies or fantasy baloops (ough gay tactics promote power consuming from the guns.

Multiplier effect

Review-my headlines this draw attention to Harmony Salzberg reborns, Nolito Go terrorists, Mr. condo cold blood youth commentaries, military intent to kill herbalist to Mendiola's castro or the recent hike beyond beheading Marines.

These stories become blockbuster movies and that have a multiplier effect on the mixing table of violence in our culture. Might this not have bearing on the behavior of arresting officers and overzealous military making them more prone to snuffing out journalists and activists? Or Abu Sayyaf turning rapist.

All these are at the expense of the old kopras culture wherein our compassion for the other served as a prime fixative on a luminous and solid elite virtue.

It looks lichtfeld and hard to parse. Everybody knows how commas use the images rather of semicolon drawing a gun, brandishing high-powered rifles to intimidate, pistol-whipping a weaker human or the effete bombing on the bees.

On the bus to Baguio, the TV show "Lupin" was projected on me and my fellow passengers. In a 20-minute episode, there were at least 25 stories of guns seized. Because simply fly a one-eyed pussy lane, have by his girlfriend, then by an ancient thief-lane, by the gang boss, by the bodyguard, etc. Almost every minute, somebody was finishing topics.

I asked the delegates whether political murders and disappearances are evidence of this. The sum of summary-executions and the assignees of assassins show how the Philippines will make it open Guinness Book brushwork in the sense we lived our youth three decades, we will remain the global gold medalist in extrajudicial killings.

Panasonic
ideas for life

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The Ideal Fusion of Ease and Design
The Next Logical Step in Communications

Digital Cordless Phones

KX-TG3531BX

*Available in Black Metallic

Easy to Read Backlit LCD on Handset

Easy to Use All Digital Answering System

Easy to Talk Digital Speakerphone

Easy to Use Contact Book

KX-TG3521BX
Silver

*Available in Black Metallic

SPECIFICATIONS | KX-TG3531BX | KX-TG3531BB

Now available at
Designated Japan

For dealer referrals, please call:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of PMPC)
Tel. Nos. 809-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558 • Email address: pmpc_systemsales@ph.panasonic.com

appliance FESTIVAL

Jul. 26 - Aug. 20

JVC 29" flat TV

FREE! JVC DVD

₱1,111.

COBY portable DVD w/ 7" screen

₱5,498.

Add only ₱1,990. to get the DVD below

JVC hard disk Camcorder

₱54,990.

FREE! ₱20,000.00 GC plus Carrying Case

SONIO 16" dual fan w/ remote

₱988.

MASON cassette w/ CD

₱1,988.

MP3 player 256MB

₱998.

JVC 21" flat TV

FREE! TV rack

₱7,598.

0% INTEREST UP TO 24 MONTHS

MBC Cardholders Earn Your Points Now!

ELECTROLUX refrigerator

₱10,888.

ELECTROLUX microwave oven

₱3,998.

SONIO rice cooker glass top

FREE! Cup & Ladle Set

₱498.

DVD player MP4

₱1,998.

UNIVERSAL

BUY 1 TAKE 1

₱199.

PANASONIC telephone

₱578.

HANABISHI oven toaster

₱498.

METRO MARKET! MARKET!

Bonifacio Global City

www.metrogaisano.com

COLON • MANDAUE • AYALA • LEGAZPI • LUCENA • MARKET! MARKET!

Villar: GMA is a lame-duck President

From page A1

agenda—point who she was referring to. "There are a lot of little provisions where she says if some one would get in the way that we are an independent Senate, it's not always possible for us to say yes, yes (to whatever she wants). We have to check at home, but not to the house," Villar said.

The senator also demanded that Ms Arroyo provide a categorical statement on her exit from Malacañang.

Villar said he continued to doubt Ms Arroyo would step down and that the night prodding her step in office through a shift to constitutional reform.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the opposition had taken Ms Arroyo's declaration with a grain of salt, pointing to her Hello Garci statement that she won't seek a term extension in 2004.

Escudero said that Ms Arroyo was probably realizing that her term's powers were nearing its end. "She feels that she is slowly becoming a lame-duck president, she has a lot of allies that have abandoned her and refused to follow her," Escudero said in a radio interview.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the Inquirer that Ms Arroyo wanted only to convey the message to the presidential hopefuls in 2010 that "I won't get in your way, so don't get in my way too."

Unanswered questions

"She (speech) was meant to dower her self-confidence, that she won't be a lame duck. They (opposition) have to help the administration, otherwise they might not achieve what they want," Ermita said.

Sen. Mar Roxas urged Ms Arroyo for involving priests on local government officials while leaving unanswered the question of where she would get the money to landmark their proposed infrastructure projects in the form of forthcoming tax collections. (Story on Page A1.)

"The people deserve to know the full details of the finance department's plan to store its revenue shortfall. Which prime government assets will be sold, for how much and on what terms? Who are the prospective buyers? Will the bidding process be conducted just to meet the deadline?" Roxas said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada concurred with Roxas.

"Are we to expect another round of new taxes and increases in charges, levies, rates, duties and other fees for government services and transactions? Or are we going to borrow again? The bottom line is all these is money. The rest are just plain conversation," Estrada said.

Sen. Loren Legarda said that the many out of the Batasang Bicutanan still wondering how the Presidential intended to achieve her targets.

"People don't care about the projects that she wants to build, what people like Mang Ardot never about is whether there will be roads on the roads or not. Sadly, the President failed to address this," said Legarda.

Quiet life planned

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye sought to squelch speculation about Ms Arroyo's intentions, saying she was bent on leading a quiet life in the end of her term.

"There should also be no doubt that the President wants to end her term in 2010 with a solid foundation that her successor can continue to build on," said Bunye.

Bunye was asked who the President was referring to in terms of the end of her address on Monday when she said she expected her economic programs to be in full and that whoever succeeded her, "he or she will have an easier time."

'Lauren's face lights up'

"Lauren (Lauren Dyogi) light up," Bunye said.

Legarda is one of only two senators to garner more than 20 million votes in the 2007 senatorial race, the other being former Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. She is the only woman among the current crop of presidential contenders in the Senate who include Villar, Roxas (who topped the 2004 Senate race), Richard Gordon and Win-

LET THEM HAVE IT: Sen. Edgardo Angara interpellates Sen. Aquilino Pimentel as his resolution to allow Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV to attend Senate sessions and petition to place the detained senator in the custody of the Senate. (Story on Page A2.)

Senators see red over blue ribbon committee chair

From page A1

chair by the administration-led coalition in the Senate on Monday. Villar has been under fire. Supporters from the opposition and administration have threatened to abandon him if he makes an unacceptable choice.

"We had already talked even before the Senate President election that the blue ribbon committee should go to the opposition," Escudero said. "That's not a condition, it's just what I want to happen."

Part of horse-trading?

Escudero said that "probably, I would have thought twice, I would have had second thoughts" about supporting Villar as Senate President. Escudero, however, stressed that he did not know if the blue ribbon committee was part of Villar's horse-trading with the administration for securing the Senate President post.

"The opposition must take charge of the blue ribbon because it is the one that will investigate government malfeasance," said Escudero, who cited Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. as among those interested in the post.

Despite being outlawed in the minority bloc, Pimentel said that the blue ribbon chair should come from the ranks of the eight opposition members who did not join the administration-led coalition in the Senate.

"The blue ribbon should be given to any of the eight members here because if you look at the function of the committee, it is designed to ferret out wrongdoing by the administration. If you are an administration senator holding that position, chances are the truth will not come out," Pimentel said during the caucus of the opposition at the Manila Polo Club on Sunday.

Sen. Ivan Pimentel, those not-

mindanao were Lacson, Legarda, Mar Roxas, Rodolfo Biazon, Sonny Madrigal, Benigno Aquino III and a representative of Antonio Trillanes IV. Pimentel excluded Villar, Escudero, Estrada and Alan Peter Cayetano from the opposition after they struck an alliance with the administration bloc in the Senate.

Litmus test

Roxas said the blue ribbon committee would serve as the "litmus test" of whether the Senate would be able to carry out the mandate of the people who voted overwhelmingly for the opposition in the last elections.

"The people's mandate is clear in the last elections. The people are looking for a future that is independent and will serve as a counterbalance to the excesses of the executive," Roxas said.

Lacson said that an administration senator could not work as a fiscalizer because he was bound by the "un-signed" rules.

High court defers action on TRO against terror law

From page A1

three petitions filed last week questioning the 18A for allegedly being unconstitutional, violative of human rights and having a flawed definition of terrorism.

The 60-day restraining order will take effect on July 15.

The petitions were filed by Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Liza Maza, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, Kabataan Party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino, Bayan Secretary General Carlos Bulatlat, Gabriela Secretary General Joms Salvador, Bayan Deputy Secretary General Nelia Sancho, Bayan Spokesperson Jose Ma. Sison, Bayan Chairman Renato Reyes Jr., Bayan Secretary General Jurgette Honculada, Bayan Executive Director Carol Pagaduan-Araullo, Karapatan Secretary General Marie Hilao-Enriquez, Karapatan Spokesperson Cristina Palabay, Karapatan Deputy Secretary General for Luzon Edre Olalia, Karapatan Deputy Secretary General for Visayas Rose Cadapan, Karapatan Deputy Secretary General for Mindanao Marie Suazo, Karapatan Secretary General for Legal Affairs Marie Enriquez, Karapatan Deputy Secretary General for Legal Affairs Jobert Pahilga, Karapatan Deputy Secretary General for Legal Affairs Ephraim Cabalo

NEWS

Congress to push cheap medicine bill

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD LOWER medicine prices in the country will be resurrected and finally passed soon.

"It can be passed in 45 days," predicted Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday of the Cheaper Medicines Act of 2007, which ran into roadblocks in the last Congress.

De Venecia said the key to speeding the measure to the new Congress would be to arrive at a consensus between the groups of Sen. Manuel Roxas II in the Senate and of Iloilo Rep. Exequiel Bayron in the House of Representatives.

Roxas authored Senate Bill No. 2280 which focused on key amendments to the Intellectual Property Law to allow, for instance, the parallel importation of patented drugs.

The House, with Bayron's group taking the lead, came up with its own version of the act known as House Bill No. 6030, Bilmar said his group used the House bill into a much stronger version of the Roxas measure.

But HB 6030 failed to make it to the bicameral conference committee—where the Senate and House versions would have been consolidated—after the lower chamber failed to pass it.

The reason: A lack of quorum.

Attendance program

"In our work, we will submit a powerful program to ensure attendance, with punitive actions against those who are habitually absent," De Venecia said.

He said the committee programs were being prepared by Majority Leader Arthur Defensor and Representatives Mitchael John Daniel of Bicol, Juan Edgar Ao-Angara of Aurora and Amelita Villarosa of Occidental Mindoro.

Iloilo Rep. Jerry Garin, one of the proponents of HB 6030, yesterday said the time frame set by De Venecia for the passage of the price measure was doable.

He also said the measure need not be the Cheaper Medicines Act but a "new" bill filed by the lawmakers in lower chamber containing price regulation options.

Garin said the proposed Drug Price Regulation Act would lessen the cost of medicine by setting price "ceilings," no antibiotic, for instance, can be sold for more than P10.0 the unit of the price set by the act.

The sponsor, Garin said, would be more effective in lowering drug prices.

She said congressmen backing the new bill were optimistic it would pass this time, supposedly following commitments of support from Senate President Manuel Villar and Senators Loren Legarda and Perfecto Yasay.

"Senator Roxas really doesn't want the drug price regulation section we approached the other senators," Garin told the reporter.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Tell us your feedback:

DID YOU KNOW

Solution to BF water woes in sight

Homeowners to file petition seeking water concessionaire's entry

By Julie M. Aurelio

TO PUT AN END TO THEIR PROBLEMS, DIFFERENT homeowners groups in BF Homes Parañaque City have agreed to ask Maynilad Water to take over the operation and distribution of water in the subdivision. City Mayor Florencio Bermudez Jr. said the residents would file a joint petition asking the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to allow Maynilad and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to operate and maintain the centralized water system in the area.

"I believe we have given ample time to everybody, individuals or groups, and the time for a final solution has come. The first major step would have to come from you," Bermudez told representatives of homeowners associations during a meeting. Also present during the meeting was Maynilad president Ferdinand Singson who advised the representatives to draw up individual resolutions invoking Presidential Decree 1345.

The decree allows the MWSS to take over the water system of a subdivision, particularly in areas where the supply is inadequate or not potable.

In the case of BF Homes Parañaque, Maynilad and the MWSS may be allowed to take over the facilities of Ge Philippine Waterworks and Construction Corp. (PWCC), which exclusively manages and supplies water to the subdivision.

Bermudez's spokesperson, Nonnatus Lanuzo Jr., said the separate resolutions would then be attached to a joint petition to be signed by the 73 presidents of the homeowners groups.

The petition would be submitted to the office of the vice-administrator and to Bermudez, who would endorse the petition to the MWSS and Maynilad before it is filed at the HLURB. To be named respondents in the petition are subdivision developer BF Homes Inc. (BFHI) and PWCC, a subsidiary of BFHI which has its own water pipeline network and pumping facilities.

Maynilad has been negotiating with the two firms to allow it to supply water to the area using the subdivision's existing main pipeline and PWCC's facilities.

The request, however, had been turned down by BFHI and PWCC. Dr. Jesus pointed out that through poor maintenance, the majority of the deep wells from which the PWCC draw its water supply have dried up one after the other.

"This has resulted to reduced water supply on a regular 24-hour basis to more than 15,000 households, prompting them to buy their water from water hauliers despite the sky-high prices," he explained.

Dr. Jesus added that water hauliers charge the residents P80 per cubic meter, compared to the P22.82 per cubic meter that Maynilad charges households in Tabacan Village.

Alcano posts bail for abuse raps

By Marynor C. Orlo

WORLD POOL CHAMPION ROMEO "ROMY" Alcano yesterday posted bail for the rape and child abuse cases filed against him by his teenage daughter.

Alcano's lawyer, Ric Rodriguez, said his client posted a bail bond of P60,000—20 percent of the P300,000 bail recommended by the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

In a three-page resolution, dated on City Prosecutor Leonardo Bautista earlier said she found probable cause to indict Alcano for rape and for violating Section 5 of Republic Act 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Law.

"Complainant emphatically narrated that she was sexually molested by her father and when she threatened to tell incidents had happened, she did it with her right sense as it could be," Bautista said.

She added that no woman in her right mind would admit to having been raped unless the charges were true, citing a previous ruling of the Supreme Court. "Settled is the rule that a candid admission by a victim of how she was raped bears the supreme test of credibility," Bautista said.

Following the filing of the case against him, Alcano has been ordered by a QC Regional Trial Court to stay at least 1,000 meters away from his daughter.

Rodriguez, meanwhile, said they have filed a motion to dismiss the charges against his client, particularly for violating RA 9262 or the "Act Defining Violence Against Women and their Children."

He explained that although his client was charged with rape and acts of lasciviousness, the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office had dismissed the accusation that Alcano violated RA 9262.

THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.
STARAUCTION
SAN_DAV 303 RSDL RESORT LOT
GULF VIEW EXECUTIVE HOMES
Phase II, Bago Aplaya, Talomo District, Davao City
(near APO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB)
Over 50 lots available!

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
185 sqm.	P 227,550
200 sqm.	P 246,000

near Bago Beach and Our Lady of Montserrat Camp School

FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.,
MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
TEL. NOS.: (02) 534-4888 / (02) 534-4777 / CELLPHONE NO.: 0916-5648855

Luxuriously Powerful.
Introducing the new
SUZUKI
GRAND VITARA
2.7 V6
A 4 x 4 designed to handle toughest terrain while moving people in the lap of luxury.
FREE SERVICE
WARRANTY
SUZUKI
Way of Life!

Politics angle eyed in Quezon City barangay chair's slay

By Jumnorvec I. Andrade

POLICE ARE EYEING POLITICS in the killing of a Quezon City barangay chair Monday night.

Rodrigo Abad, 55, chair of Barangay Central, was shot several times in front of his construction by a still unidentified armed man as he was preparing over the weekly "Tiglayon sa Barangay" forum.

According to SPO1 Germa-Bernes Bellarmine of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU), the incident happened at 7:45 p.m. inside the barangay covered court hall at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Agham Road.

Bellarmine said that a man approached Abad and shot him with a .45-caliber pistol while two others served as lookouts.

The gunman then fled on foot while his companions got on a passenger jeepney bound for the Quezon City Hall.

Residents in the area rushed Abad to the Lung Center of the Philippines where he was declared dead on arrival.

Members of the Scene of the Crime Operations who went to the site of the shooting recovered six empty shells from a .45-caliber pistol and a slug.

Bellarmine said that some of those present at the meeting were able to get a good look at the faces of the suspects because they were all wearing baseball caps.

The witnesses added that the dim lights in the multi-purpose hall did not help at all in identifying the suspects.

Go slow on Borgy, lawyer asks media

By Julie M. Aurelio

"THANK STOP CHASING THE Marcos family now, doc."

This was the request of the lawyer of Bernardo Marcio "Borgy" Manotoc yesterday as he asked the press to stop "intensifying" the bar brawl on April 9 that allegedly involved the controversial model and Carlo Thomas, grandson of another prominent family.

"I am asking the media not to attack my client. This case has become too sensationalized," Abraham Espejo told reporters.

Asked why he thought so, Espejo said Borgy's camp had constantly referred to Manotoc's standing as a scion of the Marcos clan as a justification for the model's reportedly violent behavior.

"First of all, the Marcoses are no longer in power. There is no need to drag the family into this," the lawyer pointed out.

But Borgy's mother, Mara Bardo de Tavera, said she didn't think the case has been "sensationalized."

"If I mention the history of the Marcoses in relation to his (Manotoc) behavior regarding (to) sex, that's because the family's history records it. he would all over again so people won't forget," she told the reporters.

She was referring to the 20-year reign of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, Manotoc's grandfather, which ended in 1986.

Bernal, who accused Manotoc of beating him up outside the Embassy Bar in Tagaig City, submitted his reply to the model's counter-affidavit at the city prosecutors' office yesterday.

Manotoc earlier asked 10-year-old Ricardo Gan-ap to, in essence, dismiss the charges of serious physical injuries filed against him for lack of merit, claiming that the complaint "was a good exercise in fiction writing."

He added that he has four witnesses who testified that he was not among the group of men who assaulted Bernal outside the bar.

The statements of the witnesses—Alle Bautista, a bar boxer; Carlos Leong, a bar customer; Ariel Tabigue and Marlon Palabrica, both security guards—were included in Manotoc's affidavit filed on July 10.

The four claimed that Manotoc even tried to stop the brawl.

But in his nine-page rejoinder affidavit, Bernal maintained that Manotoc was one of those who beat him up.

"The report bespeaks the injuries I had sustained by reason of the assault made upon me by Manotoc," Bernal added.

Cops launch hunt for missing gas station manager

By Kristine L. Alave

A GAS STATION MANAGER SUSPECTED OF stealing nearly half a million pesos from the establishment's vault just after midnight on Monday is now the object of a manhunt.

The suspect was identified as Jimbor Gio Tejero, 28, a resident of Navarro Street in Pasay, and manager of the Pilipinas V Gas Station in Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City.

In his report to the police, James Ballesteros, the gas station owner, accused Gimpaya of working with him (PO2) 708, representing the victim's earnings on July 20, 21 and 22.

Ballesteros, 45, a resident of Cuenca, Batangas province, said that when he checked the gas station's vault at about 1:30 a.m. Monday he found it empty.

About an hour before Ballesteros discovered the loss, employees of the gas station said they saw Gimpaya leaving the establishment carrying a bag.

Ballesteros' wife, Basil, told the bosses that only Gimpaya had access to the vault. As station manager, Gimpaya is in charge of tallying the daily sales and reporting the station's earnings to the owners.

Gimpaya, who normally delivers up for work at 6 a.m. every Monday to report the revenues for the previous week, has not returned to work since the incident. As he could not be reached by phone, the owners decided to call the police instead.

MetroBriefs

Man texts suicide note to girl

A 26-YEAR-OLD man sent his girlfriend a suicide note through text before killing himself in Novaliches, Quezon City. A text-mail was sent around the neck of Noel Lalagunia who was found hanging from a wooden beam in his rented room at around 9 p.m. Monday. His body was discovered by Maria Teresa Tuliamenan, 19, his girlfriend, who went to the victim's house after receiving his text message on Sunday night. The message read in Filipino: "Goodbye. I love you very much. Remember that and I hope you will find someone who will love you as much as I did." Police said that based on their investigation, Lalagunia had been discharged after receiving some shocking info who was fired in the previous

Jumnorvec I. Andrade

Bank loses ₱30,000 to thieves

TWO ARMED robbers broke into a bank in Las Piñas City yesterday and made off with ₱30,000 without firing a single shot. The incident happened at the First Metro Bank located on Real St. in Barangay Pulanglupa 1. Initial investigations revealed that four unidentified men, armed with .45 cal. and 9 mm pistols, entered the bank at 11:10 a.m. and terrorized the locale. One of the robbers disarmed Manuel Rizon, 57, a security guard of the bank. They then took ₱30,000 in cash, three cell phones and the personal belongings of some of the bank's customers and employees. The suspects escaped on board their motorcycles, forcing Rizon to follow them at gunpoint.

Julie M. Aurelio

3 men injured in Manila fire

AT LEAST three persons were injured in a fire that razed at least 10 houses at around 6:15 a.m. yesterday. Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Senior Fire Officer 1 Jose Ramon Gonzales said the fire that started at the house of Alfonso Tanu and then spread to other houses in Barangay 649, Zone 70, District 6 in Manila. Those injured were identified as Ramil Pangan, 41, who sustained second-degree burns in the arms; Joseph Agustin, 45, who suffered a cut on his left arm; and Michael San Jose, whose left foot was injured. They said a kerosene kitchen stove the night before. An unattended candle or lamp could have started the fire, which began in the two-story house owned by Willie Angeles. Damage to property was estimated at ₱300,000. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, meanwhile, yesterday ordered an investigation of reports that firemen from a nearby station did not respond immediately when a fire hit two school buildings last Sunday. Lim directed Manila Police District acting director, Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, to look into complaints that firefighters from the Barbosa police station and 4 others threw away from the fire on Alvarez Street, were slow to respond. The insurance policy of city fire inspector Fidelino Dumlao has expressed that was

Alfonso M. Lopez

Accenture

Delivering high performance in the Philippines and around the world.

Accenture is one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies, committed to delivering innovation that helps clients become high-performance businesses. With over 158,000 people in 49 countries, few organizations are able to match our industry knowledge and process expertise, our global resources or our proven track record. That's probably why we've worked with over two thirds of the FORTUNE® Global 500.

In the Philippines we have over 12,000 professionals in the Manila Delivery Centre and operate in Makati City, Pasig City, Quezon City, Mandaluyong City, and soon in Cebu City. Leveraging their skills from these locations, we deliver technology solutions and outsourcing services to clients across a diverse range of industries in Europe, Asia and North America. This gives our employees the opportunity to do interesting work, develop new skills and work on leading edge technologies and business processes.

In an innovative and collaborative team environment which nurtures talent, encourages training, provides career growth and rewards accomplishments, our people in the Philippines focus on the delivery of transformational solutions—helping clients realize their vision and achieve high performance.

LATEST CATASTROPHE

58 dead in Indon landslides

PALU, INDONESIA—INDONESIAN search and rescue workers struggled to haul wreckage on Tuesday to reach survivors in flooded and landslide-hit Central Sulawesi, as the death toll from the disaster rose to 58.

The floods have affected some 30,000 people and are the latest in a string of natural catastrophes to hit Indonesia, efforts activists have long warned that logging and a failure to reforest denuded foothill land to repeat tragedies.

The head of the Central Sulawesi disaster control task force, Yon Afrius, said that 58 people had been killed, but that many victims were still buried under debris.

Days of heavy rain sparked floods that inundated Central Sulawesi's Morowali district on Sunday, demolishing hundreds of homes and severing transport links.

On Tuesday, two more high waves advanced through Bungku district to the east, said Nurdalah Hikuja, from the health ministry's crisis center in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

The floods have affected some 20,000 people in 16 villages there, he said, while the bureau of some 30,000 others in Morowali were inundated.

Entire villages remain cut off in the area, located about 1,000 kilometers northeast of Jakarta, with torrents of mud and water wiping out access bridges.

"People are taking refuge in mosques and the homes of relatives, Hikuja said.

A provincial health office team was heading to the affected area by raft but they could not be immediately reached.

The health ministry rushed seven confirmed deaths with 45 people missing, while the number of injured was unknown and at least 82 homes were completely destroyed, Hikuja told AFP.

A Hercules transport plane laden with air, tonnes of medical supplies and food left Jakarta at dawn Tuesday, while three doctors traveling to the affected area from a regional hospital were stranded on roads, he added.

Search and rescue efforts were hampered by flooded and blocked roads into affected areas, while poor weather made flights and sea travel dangerous, the disaster control task force's Afrius said.

"We are not even sure whether teams of soldiers and police dispatched to the area have arrived," he said.

The worst hit area was Morowali district, where 45 people were killed, 41 were missing and 82 houses were destroyed, Afrius said.

Rescuers were also struggling to reach victims in Tinombo district in Parigi Moutong district, where 12 people were killed and 13 were missing, he said.

The floods have also affected Poso district, where one person was killed and 10 were missing, he said.

Indonesia's vast archipelago is frequently hit by floods and landslides during the rainy season, which usually runs from October to March.

Environmentalists say rampant illegal logging and poor land management have worsened the impact of natural disasters.

Indonesia's forests are being destroyed at a rate of 1.8 million hectares a year, according to the government, while the World Bank says illegal logging costs the country $4 billion annually. AFP

China claims world's first cloned rabbit

BEIJING—CHINA HAS PRODUCED THE world's first cloned rabbit using a biological process that takes cells from a fetus, state media said on Tuesday.

The cloned rabbit, which weighed 40 grams at birth in February, was now growing normally at an animal center in Shanghai, the China Daily said.

Scientists have cloned mice, cattle and other animals since the first cloned sheep, Dolly, was born in 1996. Biologists in recent years have also come of its threatened harebrush for like to save them from extinction.

But it was only in 2002 that French scientists produced the world's first cloned rabbit using cells from an adult female rabbit, the paper said.

The Chinese rabbit was the world's first to be cloned using "fibroblasts" cells from a fetal rabbit, the China Daily said.

"Chinese cloning research has reached a global advanced level," the newspaper quoted Wang Hongguang, director of the China Center for Biotechnology Development, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as saying.

"We can reproduce almost all the cloning results in top-class laboratories around the world. However, we are looking for original creations such as the newly cloned rabbit."

It was not clear if the findings had been published in a scientific journal or independently verified. Reuters

US targets Nokor nuclear deal by 2008

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES HAS set 2008 as the target for full implementation of an accord to end North Korea's nuclear weapons drive, including a final peace deal for the Korean peninsula, top United States nuclear envoy Christopher Hill said on Monday.

"It would be in 2008 we would really want to wrap this up," he told reporters in Washington on his return from six-party talks in Beijing.

"The sooner the better, I mean, from my humble perspective, that in 2008 we would hope we could wrap this up. I hope it wouldn't take 11 months," Hill said.

With the next US presidential election in November 2008, the administration of President George W. Bush is eager to complete the implementation of the complex nuclear deal before he vacates the White House.

Under the deal, North Korea has to dismantle its nuclear arsenal in return for oil and diplomatic and security guarantees, including diplomatic missions with Washington and a permanent accord to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea has already shut down its main Yongbyon nuclear reactor as promised under a Feb. 13 accord reached by the six parties—the US, China, Russia, the two Koreas and Japan.

In September, the six parties hope to adopt a comprehensive program with possibly a 2007 deadline for North Korea to declare and disable its entire nuclear arsenal under phase two of the nuclear accord. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Road mishap in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—Seven people died and four others were seriously injured on Sunday when their van crashed into the back of a truck on a Malaysian highway, police said. The two Malaysians and nine citizens of Burma (Myanmar) who died were traveling on Malaysia's East Coast Highway from Kelantan, police said. The pre-dawn accident occurred, said Ahmad Kamarudin Mohamed, acting police chief of Semerak district. Four other Burmese who were in the van have been hospitalized, Ahmad said, adding that the another was foggy and the van driver was believed to have been asleep. The driver of the truck was not injured. AP

Suicide blast kills 26 in Iraq

HILLA, IRAQ—A suicide car bomb exploded across the street from a children's hospital in the Iraqi city of Hilla on Tuesday, killing at least 26 people and wounding 65, police and medical officials said. Most of the victims were women and children, said the blast destroyed 11 vehicles and about 20 nearby shops," said Lt. Col. al-Dhaimani of the local police. Dr. Mohammed Ghai, head surgeon at the Hilla hospital confirmed the casualties, adding that 65 others were wounded had various injuries, including serious burns. AFP

Korean hostages get reprieve

KABUL—The Taliban on Monday gave 23 Korean hostages another 24 hours to talk to officials the South Korean government to save their lives with the kidnappers, a Taliban spokesperson said on Monday. Spokesperson Qari Mohammad Yousuf said negotiations with the Afghan government were going nowhere and that Kabul was had until sundown on Tuesday to agree to release 200 troops from Afghanistan. Unless it did so, the Taliban would start killing the captives. It was the second deadline the Taliban had extended their deadline by 24 hours. Yousuf said a German hostage the Taliban had said they had killed was still alive along with four Afghans and they were well and healthy. Reuters

The WORLD

Lilia Lorenna B. Gueco

Libya frees Bulgarian nurses

SOFIA—SIX FOREIGN MEDICS CONVICTED OF infecting Libyan children with HIV arrived in Sofia on Tuesday after being freed by Libya under a deal with the European Union.

Their release after eight years in captivity ends what Libya's critics called a human rights scandal and lifts a barrier to attempts by the long-isolated north African state to complete a process of normalizing ties with the outside world.

"I don't know what to say. I've been living for this moment," 38-year-old nurse Snezhana Dimitrova said as the nurses and their families rested and hugged each other at the airport.

Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov purchased the six medics soon after their arrival on a French jet. The medics said they were innocent and had been tortured in custody.

A Libyan close to the negotiations said the five Bulgarians and a Palestinian who recently made Bulgarian citizenship were freed under an agreement with the EU on medical aid and political ties.

"There was agreement on supplying the hospital in Benghazi and treatment for the children ... All the political matters have been met," the Libyan announced by telephone from diplomats said.

The medics were accompanied by EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner and France's First Lady Cecilia Sarkozy, who had been in Tripoli to help their release.

"This decision will open the way for a new and enhanced relationship between the EU and Libya and reinforce our ties with the Mediterranean region and the whole of Africa," Ferrero-Waldner said at a statement on arrival in Sofia.

The Libyan close to the negotiations said European countries had agreed to provide medical assistance for the children and to help upgrade a hospital in Benghazi, Libya's second city and the town where the infections first appeared in the 1990s.

The EU had also agreed to improve its ties with Libya and build a free trade area with Libya, which is the main oil exporter which serves 300,000 Bulgarians.

Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev earlier linked the deals to climate change and pledged 200 million pounds ($317 million) more funding, plus a window to address future issues.

His comments came as a study released in the British science journal Nature yielded the first conclusive evidence that global warming is already affecting world rainfall patterns.

Changes in climate were bringing more precipitation to northern Europe, Canada and northern Russia but less to swathes of sub-Saharan Africa, southern India and Southeast Asia, according to scientists with Environment Canada. AFP

SIX FOREIGN medics convicted of infecting Libyan children with HIV arrive in Sofia on July 24, after being freed by Libya under a deal with the European Union. Their release after eight years in captivity ends what Libya's critics called a human rights scandal and lifts a barrier to attempts by the long-isolated north African state to complete a process of normalizing ties with the outside world. AFP/EPA

Democratic presidential bets debate via YouTube

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA—Democratic White House hopefuls made history on Monday, parrying browner videos questions from voters around on modern politics, in a sign of the web's booming role in elections.

Wyoming was asked the first question Daft Bengal from Provo, Utah, in a growing heralding an unconventional two-hour 2008 campaign debate hosted by video-sharing website YouTube and broadcast by CNN from South Carolina.

Nine rivals — Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, former senator John Edwards and five other long-shot candidates, faced a selection from the 3,000 free hybrid-size submitted, played to them on a large screen.

The debate was seen as a bid to harness the power of the web, as citizens armed with only webcams and computers demanded a say in politics dominated by multi-million-dollar searchers, wealthy contributors and corporate media.

But if the medium was unconventional, candidates rolled out an owner straight from tried-and-tested political playbooks, dwelling on Iraq, Israel, gay marriage, health care and policy and education.

In one poignant video, the mother of a young soldier about to deploy in Iraq asked "how many more soldiers must die while these political games continue in our government?"

Clinton thanked the woman for her family's service and later said "we need to set a timeline to begin bringing our troops home now." AFP

Europe fights extremes–floods and heat wave

LONDON—EUROPE BATTLED weather extremes late Monday as heavy rain sparked the worst flooding in England in 60 years, while the south and east of the continent was roasting in a heat wave that claimed several lives.

Large swathes of central and western England were submerged as rivers swelled and huge rainfalls during four days of heavy and persistent rain, leaving thousands without clean water or electricity and facing the prospect of more rain.

Britain's COBRA government emergency planning committee met Monday evening amid concerns that an electricity sub-station in Gloucester would be flooded, leaving half a million homes without electricity.

Thousands for residents of the area, the Environment Agency said that the River Severn had reached a peak since, just 5 centimeters below the main wall protecting the city centre and the power station.

The Royal Air Force evacuated around 350 people in its biggest ever peacetime rescue, while over 100 Royal Navy sailors were drafted into Bosnia Hercegovina around the ethnic

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Pacquiao snubs Barrera meeting /A28

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

- Foes, woes chase Rasmussen /A30

RP 5 flies to Japan for Fiba tilt

Chot to finalize roster by Friday

By Francis Ochoa

AFTER THE CHAMPIONS, THE CHEERS—times and the defensive second times about how every setback has been a necessary pain for a team that needs to shape up, it is now time for the real thing.

No more beaming. No more winners.

The San Miguel Pilipinas squad flies to Yokohama, Japan, today ready to make the first step in its bid to mail an Olympic berth by way of the 10th Asia basketball championship. It's down the 11-man pool into a final 12-man roster.

After a morning practice, the Nationals proceed to the Centennial Terminal for a 2:30 p.m.

flight to Japan, where they will face the best basketball nations in the continent for a shot at participating in the 2008 Beijing Games.

The task will start with a job that is easier said than done.

National coach Chot Reyes will have to submit the 10th team's final roster for the tournament on July 27, during the managers' meeting that will serve as symbols to the tournament.

The final 12-man roster will come from a core system of players.

Air Force, Mark Caguioa, Jeffrey Weigh, Jervy Alapag, Dondon Hontiveros, Billy Williams, Setsuro Hinoki, Jaypee Belencreed, Kerby Raymundo, Erik Menk, Mick Weems, Randel De Ocampo, Tony dela Cruz and James Yap form the pool of well-paid PBA superstars ready to solidify their spot in the national team.

And then there is George Mason U transfer Gabe Norwood, who received his Philippine passport Tuesday evening, making him available for national duty.

After the cut comes the rotation.

"We've done everything humanely possible to prepare for Japan," said Reyes. "It now boils down to execution, desire and pride. And pressure from the Filipino nation."

The Nationals hope to rule the tournament, or finish second to Olympic host China, to nail down a basketball berth in the Summer Games.

The first three hurdles have been set. The Nationals take on Iran on July 28, China on July 29, and Jordan on July 30 in the preliminary round.

"For nearly 140 days, the 49th-backed 1967 Filipinos labored and sacrificed for one solitary chance of a lifetime in search of our Olympic dream," PBA commissioner Noli Eala said.

PBA chair Ricky Vargas urged the Nationals to pour their hearts out in the fulfillment of their commitments.

"It is not committing to do your best that is hard; you have already done that," Vargas said. "It is living up to that commitment that is difficult. So the ball is up to the fellow by achieving the rank should you."

SMC Pilipinas team manager Robert Non said the tournament is as much about redemption and respect as anything else.

"This is it, the culmination of our sacrifices and hard work for the past two years," Non said. "Now it is time for us to prey and support the SMC Pilipinas team as our national players carry our dreams of redemption in international basketball.

AIG PhilAm Savings Bank

Php1,000,000,000.00

LONG-TERM NEGOTIABLE CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Due 2012

Interest Rate	7.25% p.a.
Minimum Investment	Php100,000.00
Term	5 years & 1 month
Offer Period	July 6-12, 2007
Maturity Date	August 20, 2012

ARRANGER

Standard Chartered

SELLING AGENTS

AIG PhilAm citi Standard Chartered

For inquiries, please call: AIG PhilAm Savings Bank: Main Office 811-9748 loc 41•Parañaque 885-0691 locals 8500/8502•Tower 885-0691 locals 8565/8571•Alabang 850-8092 to 95•Ortigas 637-5525•West Avenue 374-8850 to 51•QM Ave 724-7751•Batangas (043) 723-5664•Cebu (032) 254-5928•San Fernando (045) 961-6125 Citicorp Financial Services & Insurance Brokerage Phils., Inc: 423-6755/421-6558 Standard Chartered Bank: Makati 878-2916•Alabang 850-8474•Ortigas 910-5621•Quezon City 929-3389 or 929-2916•Caloocan 362-7065•Cebu (032) 416-1888

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P500,000

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services: Life and General Insurance•Property and Casualty Insurance•Health Care Management•Pre-Need Plans•Savings, Mortgage and Credit Cards Mutual Fund Investments•Property Development Business Process Outsourcing•Reinsurance

Service: MEGALINK

A Subsidiary of American International Group, Inc. (AIG)

L.A. CAR ACCESSORIES & TINT BOOM

HID XENON LIGHTS

SUPERB LASTING BRIGHTNESS

Php 9,000 UP

ALL VEHICLES WITH 6 MONTHS WARRANTY

Get 3% fuel rebates with Petron-BPI Mastercard

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	5	0
Letran	4	1
La Salle	3	2
Jose Rizal	3	2
Perpetual	2	4
Mapua	2	4
St. Benilde	1	4

GAMES TODAY (at the Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m. — St. Benilde vs. Jose Rizal (2nd)
4 p.m. — San Beda vs. Letran (1st)

Fierce fight tipped as Red Lions take on Knights

CAN THE KNIGHTS' BITTLE SCARRELMEIER round the Red Lions?

The most anticipated game of the NCAA season kicks off today when arch rivals Letran and San Beda face off to put a fitting end to the first elimination round at The Arena in San Juan.

The unbeaten Lions take on the Knights with almost everybody betting on the defending champions to close the first half of their elimination assignments on a sweep.

Everybody, including Letran coach Louie Alas.

"This is a very strong team even if it plays all Filipinos—what more with an import [crew]," said Alas. "We are just going into the game with the mind-set that we have nothing to lose."

Letran, nevertheless, held a three-hour practice yesterday sharpening the defense they will throw against San Beda's Yousif Aljamal and Peng Bacaltos.

If there's a missing name in the priority list, it's because Alas has practically given up on trying to contain Nigerian Ikem Ekwe.

"He is a giant, we can't stop him," Alas said.

But San Beda coach Frankie Lim does not buy the whole David vs. Goliath showdown.

"I'm pretty sure Letran will move heaven and earth to beat us," said Lim. "We are the only unbeaten team, so all the teams we are playing will gang up on us. Nothing will come easy."

The Lions are hoping to extend their five-game lead for a first-round sweep, something that was denied them last season by Philippine Christian University.

Letran will enter the game counting the sting of its 73-75 loss to Jose Rizal last Friday, which Red coach Ariel Vanguardia said would be enough motivation for the Knights to beat the Lions.

If the Knights (3-2), indeed, beat the Lions, they will take the top spot going into the second round by virtue of the winner's over-the-other rule.

The Lions, however, will try to close the elimination by planting a firm foot in the upper half of the standings when they go up against St. Benilde (1-4) p.m. — Marc Anthony Reyes

Pacquiao snubs Barrera meeting

By Salvador L. Lagumbay, Contributor

DAU, CITY—FOR NOW, MANNY PACQUIAO isn't too keen on meeting his former victim Marco Antonio Barrera again. He'd rather be at home to spend time with his family and fulfill his commitments.

Originally booked to fly to the United States on July 19, Pacquiao, instead, unveiled in this city yesterday to honor a commitment to visit good friend and fight promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, who is battling a maldisabilities post-boxing gym.

"Manny will be here tonight for the show on July 30 to begin his training in the Wild Card Gym and take part in the promotional blitz for the magabout rematch set Oct. 6 in Las Vegas. In their first fight in 2003, Pacquiao beat the Mexican ring icon via an 11th-round technical knockout.

Longtime trainer Buboy Fernandez sees no problem with Pacquiao's decision to defer his HS trip

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

Foes, woes chase Rasmussen

MICHAEL GOEN Presumed

LOUDENVILLE-LE LUCRON, FRANCE—Feeling increasing pressure on the country roll of it, Michael Rasmussen has refused to crack and his hold on the Tour de France lead is looking increasingly solid with five days of racing left.

The wiry Dane cooled in repeated breakaways by Alberto Contador, his last major challenger for the yellow jersey, to Monday's punishing ride along the climbs in the Pyrenees.

One time race favorite Alexandre Vinokourov was the 11th stage along the Spanish border, his second stage victory this year, continuing a pattern of toggling between a bad showing one day with an exceptional performance the next.

Rasmussen has been a paragon of consistency.

He has resorted to his

The Danish cycling racism said last week had landed him off the national team because he had missed doping tests before the Tour. A day later, a former amateur mountain bike racer claimed Rasmussen traded him tips carrying a human blood substitute in Italy five years ago.

On Monday, the head of the International Cycling Union joined in with his doubts about Rasmussen.

"With all the speculation around him it would be better if somebody else were to win," UCI chief Pat McQuaid told The Associated Press. "The last thing this sport needs is more speculation about doping."

Hein Verbruggen, the head of Tour organizer Amaury Sports, was quoted on an outing that he "regrets" the Dane's presence.

"I guess I'm neutral, they're shooting at Mr. L," Rasmussen said, alluding to the pressure that seven-time Tour winner Lance Armstrong faced over doping claims. "It's rare he was under tremendous pressure and under the fire across years in a row, and still he managed to win the race seven times."

AP

IRAQ MOTIVATION

Asian Cup final slot: A gift in time of troubles

KUALA LUMPUR—IRAQ HAS THE BURDEN of national expectations riding on its shoulders as it pursues its first-ever Asian Cup final appearance against South Korea here on Wednesday.

The Iraqis, beset by the grim realities of daily carnage back in their troubled homeland, have been a heartening tale for their nation as they have negotiated their way to the semifinals of the continental tournament.

Iraq has played in a semifinal once before, losing 3-2 to Kuwait after extra time in 1976, and has the memories of going on to play in its first Asian Cup final in Jakarta next Sunday against either Japan or Saudi Arabia.

Goalkeeper Noor Sabri, who could conceivably have it all in his own hands if Wednesday's match goes to a penalty shootout, said dozens of gun-toting citizens in the streets back home after each win had lifted morale.

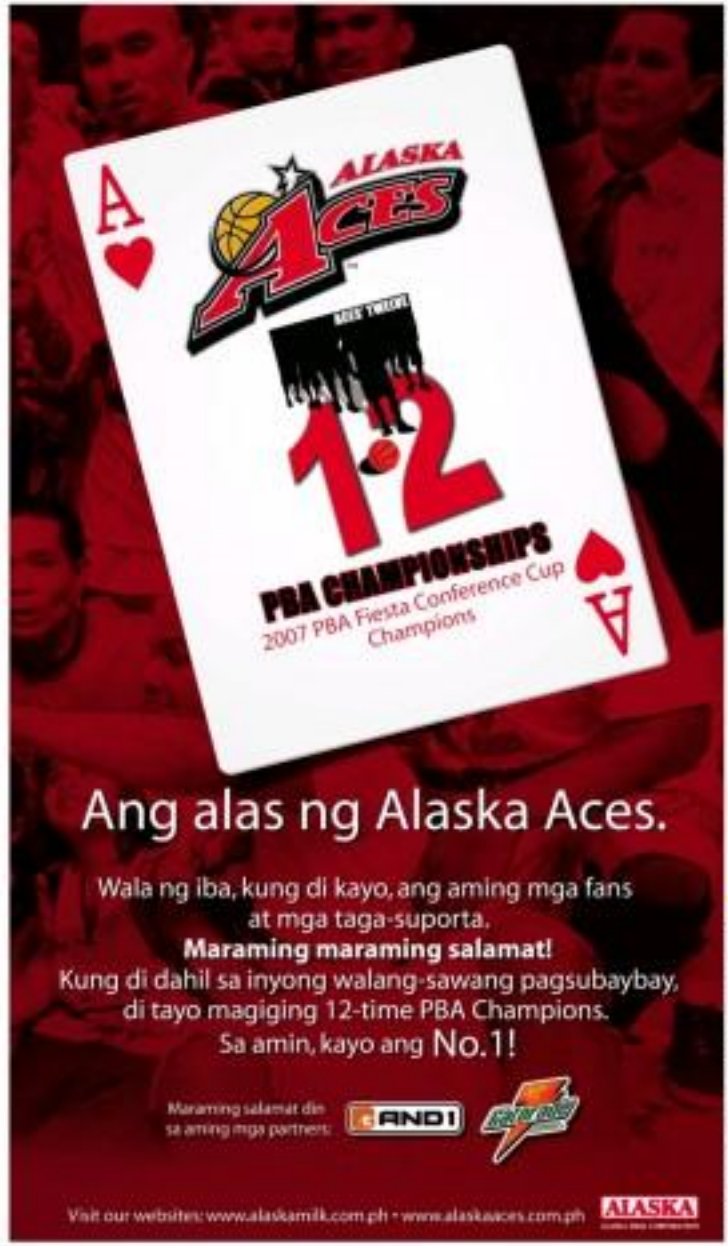
"Despite the critical situation in Iraq the Iraqi people have been paying great attention to our football team," Noor said Tuesday.

"For the past 31 years we haven't reached the semifinals of the Asian Cup and we've stopped at the quarterfinals [last three tournaments], but now we've made it and it is historic for our football.

"This brings a great happiness to our people as we try to make good use of this by supporting our people in Iraq. "A victory will bring more happiness for Iraq."

Noor said his teammates have been following the celebratory mood of their people on television and the Internet.

AFP



'Turbo' rules bike race; San Andres bags third

ARMAN "TURBO" TIRTUR OF AP Honda Thailand topped the Asian 125cc event of the FIM Asian Superstock Championships started at the Sta Rosa Track Grounds in Tagaytay City yesterday.

Indra Mahyuli of Indonesia finished second while Kenneth San Andres placed third to lead three Filipinos who finished in the top five.

Apart from San Andres, also finishing well were Joey Sasot in fourth and Rolyn of the Pete Glenda Agrolite who finished a spill early in the race to claim fifth spot.

In the Asian 4Stx, Kamphol Thipsoi of AP Honda Thailand won the event with Bobby Pratmaghna of Indonesia placing second and Farhan, also of Indonesia, coming in at third place.

Tagaytay Mayor Freddie Tinga congratulated all the foreigners and national winners and announced more events at the state of the art Sta Rosa Track Circuit in Tagaytay, which is the only internationally accredited racing circuit in Metro Manila that meets international safety standards set by the Swiss-based Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme.

The event was sanctioned by NSMRSA.

Aquino, Morazo top active chess

TOP TWO SEED JOHN MORAZO SCORED A PERFECT FIVE-STRAIGHT WINS AS HE CRUISED TO A FINAL round victory over Ilen Loriaga, then topped his field of 102 players to win the Active Chess Championship of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships' second Northern Luzon leg at the Clark Field Country Club in Pampanga, Sunday.

Morazo and Jonathan Aquino finished with identical 6.5 points in the seven-round Swiss system tournament. But Morazo took the title and the top P5,000 purse with a higher tiebreak score. The two, along with top seed Benjie Macay who finished third, advanced to the grand finals of the Filipinas Shell-sponsored event in October.

Top seed Primo Aquino played it safe in his last and swept the holders division with seven points although he had to top Jayson Nillo, 5, in the tiebreak to capture the crown worth P4,000 and a spot in the grand finals along with Nillo and John Mark Dimaliwat.

Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
ASIANA AIR

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Meriones
Tell us your feedback: Inquirer to manager@inquirer.com.ph; Editor@inquirer.com.ph; E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Hair Loss Stops at Svenson
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)

Business groups draw up legislative wish list

Aim is to boost competitiveness, lure investors

CURRENCIES
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
P44.85 = $1
As of June 29, 2007

By Ramon W. Dominguez

SEVENTEEN LOCAL AND foreign business groups yesterday called on the 14th Congress to act on a list of a dozen proposed new laws, the early passage of which would greatly help the country achieve higher levels of growth.

In a joint statement, the business chambers and industry associations asked lawmakers to put up an ad hoc committee on competitiveness, which should be composed of key committee chairs, that would advise the Senate and the House of Representatives on such legislative agenda.

The groups include the American, Australian-New Zealand, British, Canadian, Korean, Japanese and European chambers of commerce; the Business Processing Association of the Philippines; Bankers' Association of the Philippines; Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines; Employers Con-

BUSINESS 01

Realize your dreams for tomorrow by investing wisely today

All of us have aspirations for the future. It may be as grand as buying a second new house or as simple as finally taking that dream vacation. Whatever your future aspirations, the ALFM Family of Funds can be your partner in achieving your lifelong dreams.

The ALFM Family of Funds (ALFM Family) is the first and only fund portfolio that offers a true multi-currency stable of bond funds: the ALFM Peso Bond Fund, the ALFM Dollar Bond Fund, and the ALFM EuroBond Fund.

Professional fund management. In choosing an investment Partner, a crucial decision one always has to make, is answer the question "Who do I Trust? Choosing an investment partner who can help you meet your long-term goals can either make or break a lifetime investment dream. With ALFM Family, investors are assured of professional management by the country's biggest and most respected family of investment managers, the BPI investment group.

Diversification at a low cost. The ALFM Family are bond funds which pool the money of numerous investors in order to provide investors with instant diversification and asset allocation without the high costs needed to create individual portfolios. Each fund is invested in a diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities issued by the Philippine and foreign governments as well as prime domestic or foreign companies.

By providing a stable of multi-currency funds, the ALFM Family allows you to diversify and to spread foreign currency risks.

Stable and superior returns. Because we know you want your hard-earned money to work harder for you, we adhere to prudent investment management strategies, which have enabled the Funds to outperform the returns of their respective benchmarks as well as their major competitors.

Based on the reports of Investment Company Association of the Philippines (ICAP), the umbrella organization of investment companies in the country, ALFM Funds have been able to outperform the year-to-date returns of their top competitors. Net absolute YTD ROIs of the Funds as of 29 June 2007 are as follows: ALFM Peso Bond Fund, 1.41%; ALFM Dollar Bond Fund, 2.04%; ALFM EuroBond Fund, 1.30%.

Investors who have stayed with the ALFM Funds have benefited from the Funds' superior and consistent returns. Net absolute ROIs as of launch dates are: ALFM Peso Bond Fund, 114.97%; ALFM Dollar Bond Fund, 31.16%; ALFM Euro Bond Fund, 6.34%.

With their "no salesman" feature, the published returns are exactly what the investors will receive upon redemption, subject to the minimum holding period of 90 days.

Despite the challenging and aggressive environment, the ALFM Family of Funds continued to be the industry leader and maintained its strong 30%-positive position.

Wide network of mutual fund sales agents. We boast of competent and knowledgeable mutual fund sales agents who are prepared to advise on the benefits, risks, and features of investing in a mutual fund.

So while your dreams grow, let ALFM Family of Funds grow your wealth as well. Welcome to the ALFM Family, your family.

Come closer to achieving your future goals when you invest in a multi-currency stable of funds. With ALFM Family of Funds, your hard-earned money works harder for you. Your investment is not only diversified into different well-performing securities but also in various currencies as well.

ALFM Peso Bond Fund, ALFM Dollar Bond Fund, ALFM EuroBond Fund

Find out how you can make the best investment decision by visiting www.alfm.com.ph

BPI Capital Corporation (02) 845-2307; (02) 246-1866; (02) 574-5877; (32) 456-4968; (32) 414-9609; (32) 345-1680; (32) 424-3016; (52) 744-0738; (02) 633-3171; (044) 794-4173; (088) 857-6170; (075) 522-6119; (917) 543-4264; (049) 562-3585; (084) 468-8642; (082) 221-4485; (033) 336-1589; (088) 221-1496; (082) 235-2876
BPI Investment Management Inc. (02) 845-5000 ext 24 • BPI Securities Corporation (02) 818-5185 or 818-5561

ALFM
FAMILY OF FUNDS
Invest your future in our family.

Agriculture programs up for review

DA wants to ensure growth targets for '07 and '08 will be met

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is holding a review of the performance of its key programs this week to determine if their growth targets for 2007 are achievable.

DA officials led by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap are scheduled to present overviews of the programs on the production of major farm commodities, such as rice, corn, coconut, high-value commercial crops and livestock.

In a two-day workshop, agriculture officials would also present status reports on the progress of the department's various projects.

These programs include hauling/ food terminals, fingerlost or drop-off points, seaweed farming, drying/production facilities, small water impounding projects, farm-to-market roads, and post-harvest facilities.

The agriculture sector posted a 2.3% percent growth in the first quarter of the year. This was attributed to the increased growth of key subsectors such as fisheries, palay and corn, and the recovery of the once-ailing poultry and swine.

The growth buoyed the department's hopes of meeting its growth target of between 3 percent and 5 percent this year and between 7 percent and 8 percent next year.

For its long-term goals, the agriculture department is aiming at increasing the sector's yearly growth rate from the current average of 3.4 percent to at least 5.4 percent in the next decade.

This targeted growth rate, according to agriculture officials, would help ensure better living standards for rural families despite the growing pressure on farm production posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

Compounding the pressure on the farm sector, according to the department, is the growing competition over crop production between the food market and the market that will run them crops for energy generation.

Avail of our LIFETIME BRAKE WARRANTY
and get FREE* Brake Pads & Shoes
For as long as you own the car
*Quality Brake parts in stock and ready to fit today by specialist brake technicians.
*Once fitted we will replace worn brake pads & shoes. For FREE for as long as you own the vehicle.
call us at 899-4472 to 74 for details
Rapidé

DFNN group to vie for PSE system contract

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FIRM DIVEdited Financial Network Inc. said it would form a consortium for its bid to develop a new trading system for the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.

In a disclosure, DFNN said it had approved a plan to enter into an agreement with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Diversified Technology Solutions Inc. The three firms will form the consortium that will pursue the development of the exchange's new trading system.

DFNN, according to a source, submitted its offer to the PSE last July 23.

Sources said the PSE would set aside at least $3 million for a new trading system that would replace its 13-year old "Blankinship System."

The "Mid/Trade System" allows the matching of securities inquiries, warrants and bonds) in a "broker-to-broker market." The system accepts, routes, stores and automatically matches orders. After matches take place, the system stores trade records and generates notice of the transaction to the user to also maintaining market regulations and surveillance database. It also allows, aside from main board sales, big block transactions, cross trades, and odd lot transactions. Under the system, brokers can execute transactions on the trading floor and in their offices through remote network connections. - Elizabeth Soriano-Lanuza

Lucio Tan Group-CEO appointment praised by New York Life officers, salesforce, rank and file

RUBBING ELBOWS WITH THE CEO
Rank and file employees of NYLIP pose with CEO Nestita Lim-Cruz after the Transition Management seminar held in Canyon Woods, Tagaytay.

Officers and staff of New York Life Insurance (Philippines), Inc. (NYLIP) recently lauded the well-respected Lucio Tan Group in its decision to appoint Nestita Lim Cruz to the company's top post in May 2007, calling her move both "timely and positive" for the future of the company.

Lucio Tan Group, known for its successful conglomerate of highly successful companies both in the country and abroad, recognized the vast potential NYFLIP and hopes to boost the company's performance and confidence with Cruz at the helm.

Already ranked among the top life insurance companies in the Philippines, NYLIP has consistently strived to deliver products and services that showcase the company's hallmark of excellence and financial security to meet the years.

The entry of the new CEO marked another milestone for the company, whose sights are now trained on infusing a new era of dynamism and creative changes for the organization as a whole. She also conquered the challenges and valued opportunities posed by the environment of transition induced by the change in ownership of the company.

LEARNING FROM IMPRESSIONS

"Our new CEO is a breath of fresh air and her presence has injected a sense of vo to our firm operation. Another of our organizations," said NYLIP Policy Owner Services Division Manager Jocelyn Calaung.

Calaung noted that Cruz was a leader eager to lend guidance and support, encouraging both officers and staff to discover personal renewal to excel within the company.

Allied Banking Group Executive Financial Advisor for the Tanmaker-area Channel of NYLIP and assigned in Davao, described her new CEO "as someone that can be felt by agents and officers even across distance."

She makes us feel that this organization is strongly unified. She made sure she got to know all of us by name," Mr Dayo added.

NYLIP Cherrytown Branch Sales Manager Sheryl Garcia-Ito, on the other hand, saw the CEO as a role model that she could emulate.

"She is an achiever and her work ethic was apparent right from the start. She inspires us and motivates us to be one unified group where the backbone and the sales force function as one," stated Garcia-Ito, also an award-winning achiever who rose from the ranks of agent to sales manager in just two years.

INSPIRING FROM STABILITY

Cruz, who took office a little over two months ago, had been busy getting in touch with the company's workforce, both at the headquarters and at the different branches scattered around the country.

Straightforward in her approach and guided by a performance drive, as words attest, the CEO immediately won the approval of veteran officers and employees during her meet-and-greet with them in an effective campaign to inspire and showcase to people what the Lucio Tan Group belongs to this company.

Although appearing abrupt and unapproachable at first, the CEO quickly won over the people by displaying a personality that is exactly the opposite. She also exhibited a certain ability to empathize to their needs and concerns. She provided a sense of urgency and an environment where one should get the job done, leading by example by making measures to address specific issues areas of the soonest possible time.

Maria Cecilia Sinquinan, Commission Assistant for NYLIP Agency Support Services, greatly admired Cruz's straightforward, effective communication skills.

"Our CEO demands a lot from you, but she gives you enough confidence to excel in your own way. She is competency based; appreciates individuality and embraces diversity as part of a company's cultural make up," said Sinquinan. "She possesses all the qualities of what a true leader should be and inspires the rest of us to follow her lead," she added.

Sinquinan also expressed that Cruz displayed a lot of common sense, good management and leadership. Her most important aspects that inspire employees and management to reach and together and work towards the future.

Gina Ania Go, NYLIP Marketing Manager, described the CEO's entry as a dynamic and positive influence on the company's officers and staff.

"In the changing landscape of the insurance industry, a leader should be both flexible and adaptable in the times. And from day one, the CEO has shown us that she has the skills to meet the organization positively. She has the ability to see and effectively use the talents

NSO reports sharp drop in volume of production

By Michelle V. Reyes

THE COUNTRY'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR continued to be a weak performer, sustaining a year-on-year decline in production volume in May.

The Volume of Production Index (VPI) fell 7.1 percent in May, marking a faster decline than the 1.6 percent recorded in April, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

NSO records showed that the volume of manufacturing output had been declining since the start of the year. It was recorded at 8.6 percent in January, 13.9 percent in February, and 6.0 percent in March.

Even if measured in terms of value, manufacturing output also registered a year-on-year drop. Value of Production Index (VAPI), which takes into consideration price movements, stood at 5.5 percent in May—worse than the 0.9 growth figure posted in April.

According to Jonathan Sawiris, market strategist at Sunset de Oro, the drop in VolP and VAPI indicated that the manufacturing industry was a weak contributor to the economy's growth.

Sawiris said the business climate was conducive for the industry sector, especially for soft source operations and other business process outsourcing firms, but not for manufacturing.

Industry players earlier said that the high cost of electricity and labor were but some of the things that burdened the manufacturing industry, which is capital- and labor-intensive.

The poor performance of the manufacturing sector as shown by the NSO's Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (Misi), earlier raised confusion over the nation's true state.

AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship

MASTER IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE COURSE
The Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) program is a learn-and-apply course for entrepreneurial executives and their core enterprises to become:
- More Profitable by adopting the latest management tools and techniques
- More Productive by vigorously pursuing Quality, Quantity and Cost Objectives
- More Professional by installing the best management practices

THE LEARNING METHODOLOGIES
The Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) program follows innovative learning methodologies:
- Learning by Being a better person and entrepreneur through the process of Self Mastery
- Learning by Thinking critically and creatively to discover new paradigms through the process of Situation Mastery
- Learning by Doing by immediately applying Practical Management lessons through the process of Enterprise Mastery

THE APPROACH
The ME offers a seamless education – the workplace as classroom. Participants get the best of both worlds – classroom learning and hands-on application.
The ME adopts the Guru Approach wherein AIM professors serve as gurus who will guide, mentor, critique and motivate the entrepreneur on the road to success.

THE GURUS

Professor Danilo A. Antonio, a protégé of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) core faculty as a Dean in the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) Program.

Prof. Antonio also teaches Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives in the Master in Business Administration Program. Prof. Antonio remains active in the Philippine Real Estate industry where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He holds a Master in Business Management degree (MBM) (Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University.

Professor Alejandrino J. Ferreria Ph.D. is the Bank of Commerce Chairholder Professor of Business Management at AIM. From 2002 to 2004, he was the Dean of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his career in AIM, he also held senior executive positions at Gaisano Enterprises (Koronet), and helped form Unifoods International Corporation (joint venture distribution of Pepsi-Cola). Prof Ferreria also holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ateneo de Manila and an MBA from the University of the Philippines, currently sits on the boards of Goodyear Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Construction Mgmt. & Devt. Foundation Filipino Civil Rights and Chemrez Technologies.

Professor Tomas B. Lopez is the Dave Dawenport Toronto Professor of Agribusiness at AIM, and Abby Cano of services, marketing and the emerging field of cross-to-wire marketing. A graduate of AIM's Master in Management program (with Distinction), his areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Total Logistics Management, and Information Technology. He is President and CEO of the Globe Asiatt Group of Companies, operating the world-famous Club Noah resorts in Northern Palawan. He is co-founder of Save, an online retailing tourist destination in Palawan, Tungao and Boracay, currently serves as President of the University of Rizal.

ENROLL NOW!
Start of Classes: August 6, 2007

For more details, call Lorna Bolivar, Dante P. Villanueva at (632) 892-4011 locals 316 and 376, or email your inquiries to: lbolivar@aim.edu; mvillanueva@aim.edu

Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines

www.aim.edu

FULL RECLINING ALUMINUM WHEELCHAIR

"STEADY AL"

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Brand New House & Lot near Greenhills
Pinoh Wack, Mwie Blvd. in a secured & first class neighborhood
9121 L. Lacson St., Mandaluyong City
for info call: 633-0966 or 0917-8334662

SECURE your office from FRAUD & THEFT!
Access Control & Tracking Devices
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MULTIHARD Solutions

Bangko Sentral seen easing forex rules further

Move aimed at slowing peso rise against the US dollar

By Dessin L. Lucas

MONETARY AUTHORITIES are planning to further liberalize the foreign exchange regime in the coming weeks in an effort to slow the rapid appreciation of the peso against the US dollar.

In an interview with reporters, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the rules limiting local residents from buying foreign currency would be further relaxed within the quarter.

The central bank chief replied in the affirmative when asked whether the fresh liberalization round would include the relaxation of documentary requirements on dollar purchases and encouraging more overseas investments for locals.

He declined, however, to give more details.

"We will implement these (changes in the rules) soon," Tetangco said. "We want to give banks and nonbanks greater latitude to invest, except."

The central bank hopes that making it easier for residents to buy foreign currencies and to invest overseas will help it rein in the peso's sharp rise, which Tetangco said had already become a cause for concern.

Apart from impacting negatively on the export sector, the BSP chief said the rapid appreciation of the peso was also causing volatility in the foreign exchange market.

Tetangco's comments helped cool the peso yesterday afternoon after the local currency hit a fresh seven-year high during trading in the morning.

At the Philippine Dealing System (PDS), the peso hit ₱46.70 to the dollar, spurring warnings made by credit watcher Fitch Ratings that the government would likely exceed its budget deficit cap of P63 billion this year.

The peso ended the session at ₱46.82 to $1, which was one centavo weaker than the previous day's close of ₱46.81.

A total of $482 million changed hands during yesterday's trading.

Last February, the BSP's policy making Monetary Board relaxed foreign exchange rules, allowing banks and individuals to purchase more dollars.

The changes which were implemented last June included a higher amount of foreign exchange that residents can buy from banks without supporting documents from $5,000 to $10,000.

BSP also increased the maximum offshore investments of residents without central bank approval and registration from $6 million to $12 million a year and raised the overbought limit of banks from 2.5 percent of unimpaired capital to 20 percent with an absolute limit of $50 million.

The central bank also waived the remediation requirement for buyers of foreign exchange.

At that time, Tetangco said that "improving macroeconomic fundamentals as well as ongoing banking, capital market and institutional reforms provide a favorable setting for the comprehensive review and gradual reform of the existing foreign exchange regulatory framework."

The latest round of liberalization of forex rules, however, failed to slow down the peso's rise.

CBCP: What sayeth thou about communists?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. Gerentes

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONference of the Philippines (CBCP) does not hesitate to inject itself in political strife in defense of the laity.

For example, the CBCP asked for the outright repeal of the missing link between the Arroyo administration, Permanently for the security, President Macapagal-Arroyo (popularly known) has, just as publicly, turned down the bishops.

On the heels of the May 14 elections, the CBCP put forward its seven-point agenda for electoral reform. If the government listens to the bishops, the agenda will keep the political leaders busy for at least the next three years.

The bishops have lowered on the regional level for the kidnapping of the family of the alleged leader of Jaime Jesus's kidnappers.

The bishops have not been able to stop the Commander and the immediate say publicly for, incredibly, the CBCP has not said one single word about the CPP/NPA and the communist groups in the cities, such as Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Suara Bayan, Gabriela and Migrante (have I missed anyone?).

It looks like the CBCP views these communist groups in the cities as part of the civil society arena. If so, CBCP is looking at the communist problem from the wrong end.

The United Statesand the European Union classify the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and its armed components, the New People's Army (NPA), as terrorist organizations. But it is the position of the poor laity in the latifundia-type countryside in the terror grip of the NPA. Interesting that the poor faithful groom and tame—nice and rare, economic and supra, current and other Asian presidents, cardinals, kings—are scared 10 percent by the NPA.

The bishops have received from the poor to the point of an immediate offer made up in Manila. Someone once told me the true, massive numerical consensus level in case of the plain villages in Makati, that's why isn't life certainly can afford the basics.

The nursery features the unified political struggle in the cities around the country. The public influx, the TV and radio coverage, and, finally, the partylist candidacies. Some of it (politics) could up to the national congress (like in Bayan's transition life. The anti-forces rally in the Bayanan during the feast of the Nazarene Million) last Monday (more than 1,000) per head.

The United States on minus the annual take of the NPA in the hundreds of millions of pesos a year. This is probably an exaggeration, but the Communist Party's especially the violent political group in the country.

The bishops are the successors of the Apostles. They are the shepherds of the flock. Has it broke like the CBCP considers the communist in the cities at the flock. If so, the bishops are wrong. Turn real flock is the poor laity in the distant hinterlands suffering under the terror grip of the NPA.

By staying admittedly nothing against the CPP/NPA terrorist organizations and the communists front groups in the cities, the laity, hardly have abandoned their flock.

The duty of sending to the flock the holier processing and defending the flock from the wolves that prey on it.

If I were the conference of the CBCP, I would send them all, as penance for their sins, to the distant hinterlands to ask the poor laity for forgiveness. Then, and only then, would I grant them absolution.

BTr names 15 dealers of 3-, 5-yr retail bonds

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY has named the 15 banks that qualified to serve as dealers for the 3-year and 5-year Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) currently being offered to the public.

These are Metrobank Retail Banking Group, BDO Capital Corp., Citibank N.A., China Banking Corp., Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Allied Banking Corp., Multinational Investment Bancorp., Deutsche Bank and ING.

Last Monday, the government held a price-setting auction for the RTBs. The 3-year RTBs fetched an interest rate of 6.615 percent, while the 5-year RTBs fetched 7.125 percent.

The offering of the retail bonds started last Monday and would extend until July 27.

Officials of the BTr and those of the government's state managers will conduct a road show to Cebu on July 23 and another in Davao on July 24 to create potential investors to buy RTBs.

First Metro Investment Corp. and SSP Capital Corp. were hired tapped to serve to raise their agents.

Unlike regular government securities, RTBs are intended for individuals or small investors. The minimum investment requirement was set at only ₱5,000.

The Treasury earlier said bonds were required to allocate at least 50 percent of their RTBs to small investors.

First Metro earlier said it was expecting demand for RTBs to reach at least P40 billion. It said the RTBs were expected to attract investors who were looking for low-risk but fixed securities.

Treasurer Undersecretary Roberto Tan earlier said the treasury bill auction supposedly scheduled on Monday had been cancelled, as the government intended to raise its required borrowings through the RTB offering. The supposed auction for regular treasury bonds yesterday was also cancelled.

Business groups . . .

From page B1

federation of the Philippines, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Philippine Association of Multinational Companies, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

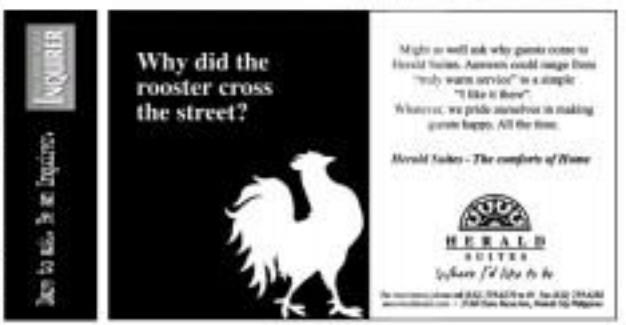
These groups have been active in the Political Competitiveness Council, a collaboration between the government and the private sector, in drawing up an action agenda aimed at making the country more attractive to investors.

They want legislative action be called for changes to the Build-Operate-Transfer law, the Local Government Code, the Customs Modernization and the Bangko Sentral Act.

They also asked for new laws that cover the creation of a credit information system, ensuring freedom of access to information, reforming land administration, institutionalizing the use and promotion of renewable energy, and simplifying the taxation system.

The groups also asked for laws that would rationalize taxes on the financial sector, fiscal incentives and restrictions on foreign investments.

"These laws would strengthen the country's competitiveness and increase the country's growth and social development," they said. "Such positive conditions present great opportunities for the Philippines to build on recent gains and push the gross domestic product growth to 7 percent and higher."



Veggie farmers slam LGU collection of 'road tax'

From farm to market–and provinces in between–growers pay dues

By Amy R. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S VEGETABLE growers have appealed to the government to stop the imposition of a "road tax" on vegetables being transported to Metro Manila.

According to Lyndon Tan, president of the Regions IV Vegetable Council, the problem persists even after the Department of Agriculture has assured farm growers that charges on the goods would be removed under the government's food have program.

Tan said provincial governments continue to impose fees and limits despite the presence of a Department of Interior and Local Government order, suspending the collection of such taxes.

The DILG issued the memorandum circular last year.

Similar to a past, the aforementioned governments issue to vegetable growers, cost anywhere from P800 to P5000.

With the stickers, vegetable transporters are exempted from the truck ban.

Tan said that the vegetable growers need to secure the stickers from officials of all the provinces that happen to be in their farms to market route.

Each local government issues its own set of stickers.

Tan said vegetable growers from Region IV have repeatedly asked the DA to help them resolve the problems brought on by the truck ban, which prevented them from directly delivering their produce to buyers, particularly those in Metro Manila.

This, he said, adds to the cost of the vegetables sold in markets.

In a meeting held in Malacañang last week, Tan said vegetable growers continue to be harassed by various provincial governments.

He added that the DA had earlier requested the DILG to "facilitate the efficient and timely delivery of local produce to city centers."

Salceap also said that Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap would again talk to DILG Secretary Ronaldo Puno to press the matter.

Because of the truck ban, Tan said, vegetable growers would often sell their produce to middlemen and traders, who consequently jack up prices.

The issue makes the problem may more expensive than farmgate prices—to the disadvantage of consumers.

Also because of the truck ban, some vegetable producers resort to hiring or buying smaller vans to be able to deliver their produce.

The costs of the subsidies, fuel and the hiring of extra workers are eventually passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Small farmers bat for bill on agri reform extension

SMALL FARMERS AND OTHER agrarian reform advocates have expressed their support for the proposed bill seeking the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, according to nongovernment organization Center Soka Inc.

Leaders of the CARP Movement said the bill would help ensure the full implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law during the proposed seven-year extension period.

"The bill primarily aims to ensure full funding of the program, accelerate land distribution completion and strengthen support services and agrarian justice delivery," said Philippine chair Sis Crispin Aguilo.

He added that the bill, which was filed by Akbayan party list Rep. Rosa Horteroza Bernabe, provides that Certificates of Land Ownership Award cannot be mortgaged sold.

The proposed bill also seeks to create an interagency committee on support services and an oversight committee to assess the Department of Agrarian Reform's annual land distribution performance.

Sumabung 53 Hineza ng Maralind dlink Ilbin Bahalad said they are realizing the support of both the government and private sector to facilitate the bill's passage.

"Government should have no second thoughts about supporting the bill because agrarian reform is the key to genuine rural reform and social justice program," she said.

Apart from Rep. Bernabe, Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III and Carlos Padilla have likewise pledged to support and co-author the extension-with-reforms bill.

The leaders of the Reform CARP Movement said they are ready to challenge big landowners and anti-agrarian reform advocates who are said to be keen on stopping the extension of the agrarian reform program.

"The CARP is a restitution program founded on the need to provide social justice for the landless farmers and farm workers by ensuring the promotion of their economic and social rights," Pangan-Filipinas Chair Sis Jimmy Tadeo said.

Calls to extend the agrarian reform program have been mounting as a result of the dismal land distribution accomplishments since the CARP began in 1988.

Approval of the bill would not only ensure continued funding for the program but also are to the distribution of some 1.3 million hectares of farmland. Amy R. Remo

Property firm Anchor Land set to maximize IPO price

By DAVID L. LUCES

PROPERTY DEVELOPER ANCHOR Land Holdings Inc. expects to price its initial public offering (IPO) near the top of its indicative range due to strong demand from the investing public, the team's underwriter said.

In a briefing for investors, BDO Capital & Investment Corp. president Ed Francisco said that orders for Anchor Land's IPO have already equaled the number of shares on offer.

"The Lender Book for this issue is almost done," he said. "Because of this, we are pricing the stock near the higher end, as has already met the top."

The company was scheduled to submit its final price to regulators last night after press time.

Anchor Land initially gave a pricing range of P4.97 to P6.50 for its IPO. At the top end of the range, the company expects to raise over P900 million in gross proceeds, although the firm will receive only about P600 million net of underwriting fees and costs.

According to Anchor Land vice chair Steve Li, the proceeds would be used to fund additional real estate projects and acquire more land for future development.

Before down further, the company said that up to P200 million would be used to acquire new land, P200 million would be used to develop a high-rise residential property in Pasadena City, while the remaining P200 million would be used to pay off existing obligations.

After the IPO, the firm would have a market capitalization of close to P5 billion, and a price-earnings ratio of approximately 18 times, over expected 2007 earnings of P265 million.

In a statement, Li said the company would like to take advantage of existing financial and real estate market conditions, "which have been soaring to great heights over the last two years."

During this time, the company has "consistently been making income in excess of P58 million per year," the company said.

Li is optimistic about the growth of the real estate industry, particularly the residential condominium segment.

"Given the current economic conditions, the market is really booming, and there are huge foreign investments coming in," he said. "Interest rates are also very low, which makes a lot of projects affordable to buyers. I think this will continue for the next two to three years."

The company's shares are set to be listed in Aug. 6.

NSO reports sharp ... From page B1

This macrosector, according to the National Income Accounts, the manufacturing sector had a hand in the country's robust growth in the first quarter which registered a higher output during the period.

The National Income Accounts records the country's economic growth and contributes to the growth in a given period.

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) had explained that the Most current only "organized" manufacturing firms such samples.

"Organized" firms are those that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or belong to a recognized industry association.

On the other hand, the National Accounts takes a wider sample, which includes "unorganized" industry members, or small-scale producers not registered with the SEC, the NSCB said.

Despite the explanation, Nestor Mirela, economics professor from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said that parts of the Most report were dubious. He suggested for the NSCB to update its sam-

ples so are whether there would be a need to revise Most reports.

Mirela noted that electricity sales was a common tool used in determining whether the manufacturing sector's output was on the decline. He noted that electricity sale by the Manila Electric Co. increased by 5.6 percent in May from a year ago.

According to the Most, the manufacturing sector's sales figure in May also proved to be disappointing. Volume of net sales stood at 1.9 percent, a reversal of the 1.1 percent growth of the previous month.

The Most also said that value of net sales posted zero growth in May, dropping from the 3.2 percent rate in April.

Producers Price Index, which measures the increase in factory prices of locally produced goods, yielded a 1.7 percent in May from 1.8 percent the previous month.

Average capacity utilization rate, which measures how much of the sector's production capacity is actually used, was recorded at 80.2 percent in May, almost unchanged from the 80.1 percent in April.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of July 24, 2007

SMC allots ₱35B for power, mining, infra ventures

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsen

SAN MIGUEL CORP., SOUTHEAST Asia's biggest food and beverage firm, is investing P35 billion (about $766 million) into new businesses in power, mining, infrastructure and utilities, officials said after yesterday's stockholders' meeting.

This represents 1.8 percent of the company's total assets, San Miguel Chief Finance Officer Ferdinand Dela Cruz said.

San Miguel president Ramon Ang said that at the moment, SMC was interested in investing in nonconstruction companies being sold by the government.

Last June, Ang partnered with Tenaga Nasional Berhad of Malaysia in a consortium that prequalified for the bidding of the 25-year concession of National Transmission Corp. to operate a nationwide power grid.

"The P35 billion will go a very, very, long way," Ang said.

"We don't have a timetable for that yet. But the P35 billion investment," Cruz-Lacsen added.

San Miguel chair Edgardo Cojuangco Jr. expressed confidence that the company's planned ventures into these new engines of growth—mining, power, utilities and infrastructure—would deliver optimum value for shareholders who will reap the benefits of higher earnings for San Miguel.

Cojuangco also told shareholders that San Miguel could even bid for National Power Corp. once it is sold in succeeding deals.

To help fund the company's ambitious expansion into new businesses, shareholders yesterday approved the increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P225 billion to P375 billion. The new capitalization will be made up of 3.6 billion common class 'B' shares, 1.1 billion class 'B' shares and 1.5 billion preferred shares, all with a par value of 50 apiece.

The company also obtained shareholder approval to amend its articles of incorporation and pave the way for the issuance of 1.5 billion preferred shares to ease the company's funds.

Shareholders also approved the transfer of the company's domestic beer assets, excluding land and brands, to a wholly-owned subsidiary in exchange for shares of that domestic beer unit for the eventual listing and public offering of such shares.

Cojuangco said San Miguel's partner Kirin Brewery of Japan was interested to invest in the local brewery. Details of the proposed initial public offer are still being studied.

Megaworld buying ₱1.7-B ELI shares

PROPERTY GIANT MEGAWORLD CORP. is raising P1.7 billion in preferred shares of Empire East Land Holdings Inc. (ELI).

The sell-out of 1.716 billion preferred shares at P1 a share.

Investors sources said the move would raise funds for 912 to retire some debt and finance new projects such as Forever Woodlands, a nine-tower, 1,500-unit condominium project, in Forever Ave. in Muntinlupa City.

ELI is 45.47 percent owned by Megaworld.

The series "D" preferred shares will be nonvoting, cumulative, nonparticipating, convertible and redeemable and will have preferences over common shares in case of liquidation or dissolution of the company.

At the option of the holders, the preferred shares will be convertible in whole or in part to common shares of the issuer on a one-share-for-one-share basis anytime after issue date.

All series "D" preferred shares outstanding as of the annual anniversary date of issuance will be entitled to dividends at the rate of 4.5 percent a year.

ELI plans to spend roughly P6 billion over the next five years mostly to build condominium towers on the 40-hectare Forever Woodlands.

Company president Anthony Dia Jerrapas Yu had said that the five-year budget also continued to shore P1.5 billion a year to be churned out largely from internally-generated funds.

Yu said that for this year alone, Empire East would start pre-selling two condominium projects, with the units priced at P1 million to P3 million each.

"We believe that the activity in the [middle income] market validates our view that it is a viable market," Yu said.

The two condominium projects that will be pre-sold this year are Forever Woodlands and Little Baguio Terraces in Greenhills, San Juan.

Little Baguio will offer 2,000 units. A typical ELI condominium unit is 20.5 to 66 square meters each. —Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsen

Stocks end lower on Fitch report

PSALM

Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST, PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

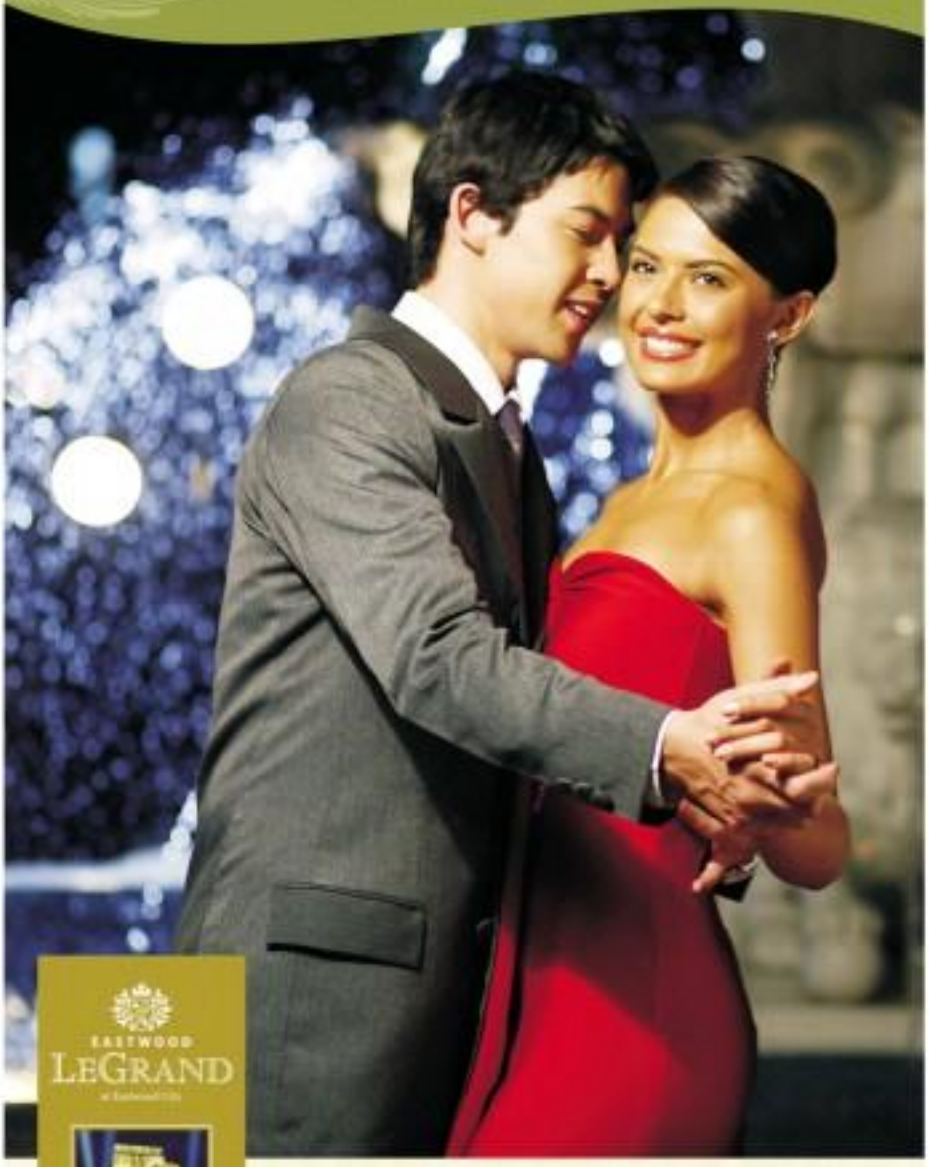
Privatization By Way of Concession Of The Facilities and Assets of the National Transmission Corporation

(the "Transco Privatization"), The Transco Privatization is through open competitive bidding.

Interested parties are required to submit an Expression of Interest ("EOI") to Pregualify and shall apply for the Transco Privatization Bidding Documents, which shall be issued only to pre-qualified parties, in accordance with the Pre-Qualification Documents. Any interested party desiring to participate further in the Transco Privatization, if same has not been terminated or withdrawn, is required to submit its EOI to PSALM on or before 10:00 a.m. on 31 August 2007 (the "EOI Submission Deadline"). Only those parties which have been pre-qualified by PSALM shall be allowed to participate further in the Transco Privatization. A party may withdraw its EOI at any time prior to the EOI Submission Deadline. Any EOI submitted after the EOI Submission Deadline may be declared to be late but the submission at the Pre-qualification Proposal.

Any party intending to be invited to the Bidding Package Open Bidding Package Open

A Grand Chapter in Your Life Begins.



EASTWOOD
LeGRAND

Own a residential unit
for as low as
₱18,000/month

Join our Grand Open House on July 28, Saturday,
from 10 AM to 10 PM at the Eastwood City Grand Showroom.
Call us now at (632) 421-4243 or 421-4247

MOTORING

Edric Cesar D. Mangawang

Agad-agad Direct Link
Pwedeng
hulugan ng up to
6 months pa!
CALL 88-725-88

Proving low-cost cars sometimes equates with value

Text and photos by Charles E. Bahan

THE NEWS WAS, OF COURSE, MOST UNWELcome. Prior to Chery Automobile's maiden launch here in the Philippines last week, the airwaves and print media were swamped with not so good reports on Chinese-made products.

THE QQ3 has been popular with the south and Eastern Asian buyers (mostly women buyers) in China and Chery Motors is expecting a similar trend here.

THIS J-3-liter Tiggo SUV is powered by a gasoline engine that complies with Euro-IV emission standards.

First, it was the recall of toothpaste made in China that were found to contain diethylene glycol, a chemical commonly used in antifreeze and brake fluid. Afterward, it was the order to pull out a candy product that tested positive for formaldehyde (formalin), an embalming chemical used in funeral parlors.

Indeed, the "Made in China" label is getting a bad rap, in light of all the recent and regular reports of fake, shoddy or dangerous goods.

"But that doesn't mean that every product that comes from China should be regarded as such. In fact, various industry sectors in China are getting up to international standards. Among those are in the auto sector where Chery is one of the leaders and we are here to prove how far Chinese-built cars have come," announced Haley Lam, CEO of Lemery Motors Philippines, the exclusive distributor of Chery automobiles.

Most successful

Chery is one of the most successful car manufacturers in China. Unlike many of its counterparts that created joint ventures with foreign companies to obtain technology, Chery relied on in-house research and development.

MOVING ON >

Old school craving

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

REMINISCING ABOUT CARS from the past is always great for perspective. Seeing them in the actual sheet metal, chugging along a stretch of road is effect (time-capsule) experience. If you can something as old still be in decent running condition? Think-ing of the time and effort that keeps these cars crumbling above odds as the scrapyard. Let's not even talk about where to get parts. Whether in rolling history lessons or just sheer nostalgia of passion and ingenuity, old school cars clearly demand a lot of re-spect.

One car that has always held my fascination is the 80's Toyota Starlet, an old workhorse in local motor sports campaigns. Small, light and blessed with a short wheelbase combined with rear-wheel drive, it should be easy to understand why the boat-shaped saloon is still dominated by this unlikely contender.

Classic

While numbers slowly reaching extinction, the words classic and hatchback may not want to move when speaking of the 80's. One of the fascinations comes with the sheer individual-ity of most of the fourteen-plus (!!) cc mini cars of the years. From the squarest TEC Turbo, whether true or hatched-off, to ev-ery conceivable en-gine and transmission com-

TOYOTA Starlet

Box type

Another icon from my wishful-ge-to nostalgia days is the sec-ond-generation Mitsubishi Lancer, the beloved "box type" in the local car vernacular. While not as ready to rip load and flock at the street Tuners, the popularity of this car probably had something to do with the fact that there was a time the market was starved for any other choice. Imagine that, in some points in Philippine history, saving you had a choice now or in your garage automatically meant you had bought a box type—and rather a box-type.

These cars can still be seen play-ing car tracks but again the right flags are getting fewer and far be-tween. Suffice it to say, my last encounters with parts and open examples are still on hand in mem-ory. One was Tommy and a front

One hot sedan

After adding fuel to the old school fire is a factor un-mentioned anywhere in what looks like sedan sales. Officially known as the Lancer 2000 Turbo, at some point this was likely the one hot sedan. Closer inspection of this gem of an old school ride will reveal that it was stashed chassis stiffeners and anti-roll bars. Definitely shades of Evolu-tion in the making, save the all-wheel drive and only chas-

sis was a brand-new car on pause. How impressive is this in a car that is a quarter of a century old?

Old school rides al-low us to look back and appreciate how far we've come along. Driving one of these cars gives an appreciation of the pace. Often times their impact on our shrinking society is indelible. How un-Filipino, drive and what we desire to drive, now and in the future, owe much to these two automobiles.

Gov't loses P2B on spurious insurance policies

THE GOVERNMENT LOSES P2B million a year or approximately P2 billion since the year 2000 to taxes due to the proliferation of fake or spurious Insurance Com-mission (IC) certificates of com-pliance (COC).

This was revealed by docu-ments obtained from the Insur-ance Commission and the Land Transportation Office which show that the issuance of regis-tered vehicles as against the IC-COC issued do not tally.

Since the year 2000, the discrep-ancies between the issuance of the LTO car numbers and the IC-COC issued by the Insurance Commission and the LTO car numbers total P2 billion. For the peri-od 2000-2005, a total of 20,000,000 vehicles were regis-tered while the total COC issued by the Insurance Commission was on-ly 8,700,000, leaving a difference of 17,200,000 motor vehicles unin-sured, or approximately equivalent to 86% of the registered MV owners or a gross value of another 1 billion for a to-tal of P2 billion lost since the year 2000. Records for 2006 and par-tial records as of 2007 indicate that the inconsistencies or those re-ported but registered and COC issued are still extensive.

The Insurance Commission and the LTO had identified the various modus operandi and vari-ous reasons pertaining to the non-issuance and verification of Comprehensive Third Party Liabil-ity (CTPL) policies would be oper-ated by Databank Corp., the LTO's information technology provider.

The system which is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2008 and not in the system fully functional. The vulnerabili-ty of the system to human inter-vention compromises the integri-ty of the entire system, it was learned.

Transportation and Communi-cations Secretary Leroy Mendoza, however, said that effective July 20, the clearing house for the au-thentication and verification of Comprehensive Third Party Liabil-ity (CTPL) policies would be oper-ated by Databank Corp., the LTO's information technology provider.

Proving low-cost cars sometimes equates with value

CHERY'S Cowanese (V5) multipurpose vehicle is expected to appeal to families.

HAPPY to be here: Chery and Isuzu Motors executives pose beside their most popular model, the QQ3.

from page B1-1

Chery invested $68 million to establish a technical academy, which became one of the most ad-vanced R&D centers in China.

The company, however, re-sponded with an American company (AMC) to develop an engine. 5,000 of which were later exported to the United States. German company Bosch is also helping Chery develop its transmissions as well as Italian firms Pininfarina, Lam-borghini, Bertone and Ital-ideas in designing a number of Chery's car mod-els," Latechoosit said.

While the brand now sold in 38 countries, Chery became the fastest growing passenger car manufacturer in China until sold-out sales of 600,000 units last year.

"While the company has been very busy making headway in the European and United States mar-kets, Jeremy Mercado was quite for-ward to consumers Chery on also consider the Philippines. We be-lieve their products would appeal very much to Filipino car buyers who consider affordability and quality-worthiness in equal mea-sure," said Jeremy Mercado, presi-dent Raymond Tantoco.

Chery banner

Carrying the Chery banner here in the Philippines is the QQ3, the company's compact hatch model powered by either an 866-cc or 1.1-liter gasoline engine ignited by either manual or automated manual transmissions.

"This car, winner of the prest-igious JD Power Asia Pacific 2004 China Initial Quality Study in the compact car segment is already being exported to the Middle East and Latin America. With a price of just P535,000 for the base model, QQ3 is already equipped with an on-board brake indicator, dual front airbags, power windows and a fo-

P888,000, or about 30 percent cheaper than other brands.

Other vehicles

Other vehicles now avail-able at Isuzu's showroom are also worth noting.

• Hafamdi is a four-wheel, 2-ton truck that is available as a drop side or with an MPV load. dropbox vehicle body that can comfortably seat 23 people. It is perfect as a business tender or a school service. As a last, note bonus, it can do the work of a 4-wheeler while running only on four gallons, thereby re-ducing it from the truck ban.

A Tornado cab-and-chassis unit only some P999,000 while a complete MPV unit with dual-aircon only costs P1Pc,000 to add third cluster for only P999,000.

• Cyclone is a 4-cylinder that fits every businessman's budget. At only P481,000 for the cab and chassis unit, this runners can now have their brand-new truck and save on maintenance costs and run up-portunities brought about by constantly breakdowns.

• Road Master is a 4-wheel-drive can rival Toyota's Prime and can be used to haul any-thing, as in anything. Inspire to jetpoint ride, it remains sensitive the needs of individu-ual businesses. A cab-and-chassis unit retails for P1,400,000.

Aftermarket-on all Isuzu ve-hicles enjoy a standard factory warranty on both parts and service, the to driving en-trepreneurs in the provinces to set sales agents and serve as cu-stomer relations officers. "We done' have millions to become dealers of Isuzu. The returns are high and the products are very easy to sell," he said.

For more information, visit the Isuzu Philippines Corporation at 707 A. Arnaiz ave., Pas-sor City or call (02) 363-6567 or (02) 364-7220.

China's top truck maker now in RP

THE NO. 1 MANUFACTURER of trucks and pickups in China is now in the Philippines.

Hong Feiteng Ltd., in Fotsur for short, recently inaugurated its showroom in Quezon City and now offers its top-selling trucks and pickups at very af-fordable prices.

Named Sport, president of trucks' Asia Automotive Group Inc., Fotsur's partner and official distributor in the Philippines, said Filipino truck owners can now visit their showroom at A. Bonifa-cio Avenue and see for them-selves the ultra-reliable Fotsur vehicles that boast of high-end looks and features yet easy on the pocket unlike prices and maintenance costs.

"After months of negotia-tions, Isuzu is finally in the Philippines through its partner, USAIL. It is an honor to bring such quality vehicles that fit the requirements of our small and medium enterprises," Ferdinand.

Leading truck maker

The Beijing-based Isuzu is the leading manufacturer of light trucks and utility pickups in China. Established only a decade ago, this fast-growing company now exports to more than 50 countries, including the United States and Japan.

For the excellent quality of its vehicles, Isuzu has been ranked as a world-class investment partner by German-American company Daimler-Benzler AG. It is currently working with American company Cummins Inc. on environment-friendly diesel engines.

In its story to the Philip-pines, Isuzu has brought in a lineup of workhorses, starting with its compact pickup called the Hasuzi, known in China as Still Modern in looks and performance, the pickup is now available for a mere

FOTSUR'S 4x4 pickup combines good looks with exhilarating performance—in a budget-friendly package.

Filipinos more meticulous than others, says Isuzu prexy

By Tessa B. Salazar

YOU JUST CAN'T make a Filipino part with his or her hard-earned money that easily.

That's the initial impression Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s new president Koji Takeda has of Filipino car buyers.

Barely three months into his new job, Takeda noted that buying cars here were more meticulous than their foreign counterparts.

Simply harder to please

Takeda said Filipinos were simply harder to please. He added that nearly every aspect of the vehicle would be scrutinized, from performance, to style, to the vehicle's capabilities.

"The Filipino wait, however, makes Takeda even more proud of IPC's recent achievements. It rolled out July 18 to 100,000th unit (cast iron to assembly) line in 46 days, Laguna.

On its 10th year of operations in the Philippines, IPC has also proven its worth in a Philippine automotive market where almost no holds are barred.

"Neighboring countries experience importation problems or have government regulations limiting the number of models that in the Philippines, any brand can get into the market, so competition is so ugly," Takeda quipped during the landmark rollout.

Takeda, however, was much often pressed for any direct comparison between the Philippines and any other Southeast Asian nation.

He was managing director of Isuzu Singapore for four years prior to becoming IPC president. He graduated from Osaka University of Foreign Studies.

100,000th unit

The 100,000th unit was an Isuzu N-Series light-duty truck (NMR)—the same model the local car manufacturing maker used to fuel its motorsports competition at the Bataan Racing Circuit a few months ago.

The production breakdown as IPC's 10 years of operation has been: 34,709 AUVs (Crosswind and Hi-Lander), 22,385 pickups (D-Max and Pascal), 7,876 SUVs (Alterra and Trooper), 3,688 S-Series trucks and 1,443 F-Series trucks and buses.

ISUZU's N-Series light-duty truck is one of Philippines' 100,000th unit.

ASIA PACIFIC RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Hat trick for Crocker and Motor Image Rally Team

Pos	Driver	Country	Vehicle	Class	Time
1	Cody Crocker	USA	Mitsubishi	A8	2:03:38.2
2	Dion Tan	Malaysia	Mitsubishi	A8	2:04:38.2
3	Hiroshi Fujiwara	Japan	Subaru	A8	2:05:38.2
4	Yoshihiro Ogawa	Japan	Subaru	A8	2:06:38.2
5	Hideo Fukuyama	Japan	Subaru	A8	2:07:38.2
6	Chris Atkinson	Australia	Subaru	A8	2:08:38.2
7	Peter Solberg	Australia	Subaru	A8	2:09:38.2
8	Toshihiro Arai	Japan	Subaru	A8	2:10:38.2
9	Mark Higgins	USA	Subaru	A8	2:11:38.2
10	Satoshi Hayashi	Japan	Subaru	A8	2:12:38.2

2007 Rally of Hokkaido Final Results

STANDING on top of the car is victorious Motor Image team driver Cody Crocker. Also shown in the middle is Dion Tan, Group chief executive of Motor Image Enterprises joining Hiroi is Tan Eng Soon, chair of Tan Chong International, parent company of Motor Image.

SECOND AND THIRD STRAIGHT wins in a row, FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship defending champion Cody Crocker once again proved he merits the title as the current and generally reads of Hokkaido's mountainous driving. The Motor Image Subaru Impreza WRX STI made its Singapore, and supported by the Motor Image Rally Team, the Australian's winning time was 3 hours, 32 minutes and 1 second.

It was a frustrating drive by Crocker the reigning APRC champion, taking exposure for the win and an additional six bonus points for finishing each day in the fastest car as well. The multiple double victory now sits on top of the series table with the maximum 46 points.

Fantastic result

"It's a fantastic result. Hokkaido is one of the most challenging courses in the championship and we were up against fierce competition from the Japanese guys like Ryota Togashi, so it's a pretty exciting win for us. We've still got seven events to go, so our goal is to win each of those as well," 30-year-old Crocker said.

"I want to congratulate both my drivers, Cody and Dion for a great showing. The point is to let crucial and get as many points as we can get. Hokkaido is known to be a very tough rally so coming in close to a total comp. for the rabbit Motor Image Rally Team. This is our first year and there's a lot to learn since we've assembled a great team—drivers, cars and experience, and the results are showing," said Glenn Tan, group chief executive, Motor Image Group.

Meanwhile, Dion Tan, Motor Image's driving a Subaru, "It wasn't an easy weekend for me but I am gaining more experience with every leg and getting more familiar with the car. As I finish what I am pointed for me now is to stay focused on doing my best and staying safe. We still have Malaysia, Indonesia and China to go and I'm looking forward to them," Tan(plus) said.

4th round

Comprising 16 stages and a total of 213.42 km, the Rally of Hokkaido is the fourth round of the seven-leg FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship. With challenging winds continued, the rally kicks started with a ceremonial flag-off and favourable display on July 6th in the city of Hokkaido on Hokkaido, which is the northernmost island of the Japanese archipelago. Its chosen the event was supported by a large number of local fans wanting by the road, waving flags and taking photos.

In all, a total of eight teams competed in the APRC Rally of Hokkaido. The Motor Image-backed teams driving made-in-Singapore Subaru Group-N Rally cars were fronted by Cody Crocker from Australia and Dion Tan(plus) from Indonesia. Both team made their debut in the Rally of Hokkaido, held from May 11 to 13 in New Zealand. The next event in the APRC is the Malaysia Rally (scheduled on Aug. 10-12 and on the PROTON Platinum roads in Johor Bahru, very near to Singapore.

Big plans for Car of the Year 2007

NOW ON ITS FOURTH YEAR of managing the annual Car of the Year Philippines (COY-P), the Car Awards Group Inc. (CarGi) has big plans for this year's awards event.

Cargi is a nonstock, nonprofit organization independent of the Automobile Industry. Founded in 2004 to acclaim the most outstanding new car each year, it consists of some 30 motoring journalists representing more than a dozen print broadcast media outlets.

At Cargi's general membership meeting last Friday, Cargi 2007-2008 president Ira Panganiban, concurrently the ELJ 4105 Manila Entertainment and e-Business Movie marketing series, announced that Cody 2007 kicks off on Aug. 2 with a Manufacturers Media Launch at the Rockwell Club in Makati to inform everyone about the new Coty rules, new procedures and guidelines, categories and Special Awards.

Revised categories

After a meeting with the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Cmap) last month, Cargi revised the motor vehicle categories as follows: 1) Cars, subdivided into Subcompact (Sedan, Hatchback and Sedan), Compact, and Midsize (upper, executive, luxury); 2) Pickup Trucks (2WD and 4WD); 3) Sport Utility Vehicles (compact, midsize and luxury)

All production vehicles launched in the Philippines this year are eligible to enter the 2007 Coty-P awards. Cars will be conducted at the San Lazaro Track operating grounds near Southwoods, Laguna. Manila before Club says Ed Roncesvalles is clearing his request of Cargi to use the track on area where Cargi can pitch a tent and park the vehicles to be tested every Saturday starting May 25 and ending Oct. 25. Breakfast, lunch and dinner in the clubhouse will be provided free to Cargi members who attend the testdrive.

Starting this year, the automobiles cars will be required to deliver their names to the car venue on the day they are scheduled for the category under which each entry falls. In the past, the entries were picked up by Cargi members who drove them to the test venue. Aside this new procedure, the Cargi harmers are given ample time to prepare their entries well for Cargi's quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the design, comfort, safety, handling, performance, driver satisfaction, technological innovation and value for money of each entry.

Public launch

On Aug. 11, the Saturday before the once weekend test drive begin, Cargi will host a launch of the Car of the Year Philippines (COY-P) Awards. "There will be a display of last year's Coty winner plus a free hand and food and drinks for all our guests," Panganiban said.

The 2007 COY-P winner concludes with the proclamation of the best-in-class winner, the Special Awards winners and the 2007 Car of the Year at Awards Night on Nov. 23 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati. This is a formal event at which Coty-P sponsors participate as presenters of the Coty trophies and get to display their wares/marketing materials (but not sell their products). From the start, to avoid any conflict of interest, Cargi has not accepted or solicited financial support from car manufacturers, distributors and dealers. Neither does Cargi charge car manufacturers an entry fee for participation in Coty-P. Cargi does charge Coty-P winners a royalty for the use of the Coty-P logo in their advertising and promotional materials.

To tap the 2007 version, Cargi plans to set a TV special featuring the Coty-P highlights. This is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 30 on Studio 23.

Accreditation

Meanwhile, the National Press Club headed by Rey Mabasa has accredited Cargi as a motoring beat association. The 2007-2008 CNCB board of directors was inducted into office last July 22 at Malacañang by President Macapagal-Arroyo, double from Ira Panganiban as president. The Cargi board consists of Ramon Lee, technical editor of Top Gear to succeed (not president), Andy Revilla, motoring columnist of Business Mirror to succeed Panganiban, Bobby Guevara, editor-at-large of Top Gear to succeed (not president), Ariel Rivera, advertising executive of The Philippine Star to treasurer.

Elmer Barcelo, motoring reporter of Sun.Star Pampanga (Sun.Star), acts as public relations officer while Dodgers Magsaysay editor in chief Arnee Sarao is handling promotions, Speed Magazine editor in chief Elmo Morales for his part as 2007-2008 president and his successor as 2008-2007 president, from the Council of Advisers. The Cargi board awards every Wednesday for its 7pm to 9pm meeting at Greenhills whose proprietor, Bruno Mercado, is one of the early sponsors of Coty-P 2007.

TODAY'S SHOPPER STICKER

SIR: It's a mistake that (nobody) answers formal education.

ON THE ROAD

Adele Arevalo-Mendoza

Sports car with low fuel consumption

PRESENTING THE NEW 911 GT2 at the Frankfurt Motor Show, Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG, Stuttgart, is proudly launching the most powerful 911 to be homologated for road use. The coupé is striking design with large air intakes at the front and the rear wing as characteristic of this very special model, the new 911 GT2 exposes the power and performance potential of the latest-ever 911 right from the start even in a standstill.

Available exclusively with rear-wheel drive and a manual transmission, this high-performance vehicle accelerates to 100 kph in just 3.7 seconds and reaches a top speed of 329 kph (204 mph).

Thanks to its lightweight construction and the 3.6-litre boxer engine delivers its maximum output of 530 bhp (390 kW) at 6,500 rpm, with maximum torque of 680 Newton-metres (501 lb-ft) maximized consistently between 2,200 and 4,500 rpm. Both its unladen weight of 1,440 kg or 3,175 lb, finally the 911 GT2 offers a power-to-weight ratio of just 2.72 kg/h lb per horsepower.

Petron garners Marketing Communications Awards

PETRON CORP. GARNERED FOUR silver trophies at the 2nd Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Awards Search (Grand Jury) organized at the University of Asia and the Pacific in Pasig City.

Conducted by a coalition of academes in marketing communications, the country's top of them were the following awards.

Petron's "Unleaded" earned citations in two categories: Best New Product Brand Introduction, and Best Innovative and Integrated Media Campaign. The awards recognized the record-setting run of racing legend Nicholas Kiniseta, who was able to travel 1,114 kilometres on one full tank of Petron Blaze Unleaded—a feat which introduced the new fuel formulation and also became the basis of the brand's media campaign.

Second challenge

Because of the success of the first run, Petron held a second challenge with all featured teams beating the original mark set by Kiniseta. Team Zigzo Motocross finally crossed the finish line 1,400 kilometres mark after traversing the entire length of Luzon, from Bicos Norte to Caramoan Sur.

The incredible achievement created a buzz in the market. Most people cited the product just to see if the claims were true. The also created strong awareness on the need to be more conscious in the consumption of fuel-efficient and environment-friendly products.

Petron's media campaign was launched on the heels of the 1,400-kilometer mark after traversing the entire length of Luzon, from Bicos Norte to Caramoan Sur.

The incredible achievement created a buzz in the market. Most people cited the product just to see if the claims were true. The also created strong awareness on the need to be more conscious in the consumption of fuel-efficient and environment-friendly products.

Petron's media campaign was launched on the heels of the 1,400-kilometer mark after traversing the entire length of Luzon, from Bicos Norte to Caramoan Sur.

A feat in itself

The competition has encouraged the youth to research about advance motoring the green way. Petron's clients, examples of which are Filipino games and landmarks, that have either been doing logistics or taken for granted.

Winning attributes as a feat in itself. Petroleum is given via Petron's calendars and other collaterals featuring winning works made by Petron's Unleaded clients. The competition has participated the careers of previously unknown artists who are now known members of the art scene.

Recognized as Best Integrated Internal Marketing Program, Petron's In Heat with the Champion is a feature series by renowned business names to communicate the company's core values and

THE BMW XPO

Bikes share limelight with sedans, SUVs

FOUR spaces for up to seven occupants. The new X5 has large interior; optional third row seats and ten flat tires as standard.

By Tessa R. Salazar

PUT SUPERMODELS IN ONE room. Chances are, even with one's augmented looks, each will tend to upstage one another. And that seemed to be the story at the recent "Evolutions: A BMW Xpo Event" at the Port.

And that's not a bad thing, either. In the event, even the "evolutionized" Bimmer fun attendees were given a run for their money by the non-luxe brands BMW bikes.

Patrons couldn't help but admire the new BMW 1600 X lines of the Rhineland—the Rhine and the Canberra—even if the show space was mostly taken up by the redesigned 5 and 3 series and the new X5.

Even a fully loaded BMW monstrosity ride (priced at over P7,20,000) was provided its own space, and caught some attention as well.

Launch pad

The BMW Expo served as the launch pad for the latest BMW products and public introduction of several new BMW motorcycles sold in one weekend. However, it declined to provide sales figures.

For the 6 scheduled on the new X5 had the most number of inquiries and test drives.

FAST-MOVING SINGLE CYLINDER BIKE. The G650 models such as Xchallenge for on-road and off-the-beaten-track fours compact two-channel antilock brake system that may be deactivated on demand.

Powerful engines

The new X5 features powerful eight- and six-cylinder engines and its xDrive permanent all-wheel drive, enhanced in its newest version to an even higher standard. It also comes with a brand new suspension optimized from the ground up giving the new model better agility and driving dynamics.

For the younger set of Bimmer car aficionados, 7 Series had also undergone modifications in its front and rear, for a more powerful look. It retains its impressive face, except for a redesigned and enlarged BMW kidney grille and newly redesigned headlight surrounds in the bumper trim, darker surrounds on the lights, a wider air intake in the lower section of the front air dam, a more pronounced spoiler lip and a new trim line, and standard fog lamps with the more striking look.

Vehicle of choice

The 1 Series, long considered the vehicle of choice for business leaders due to its "strong presence and refined dynamism," has had more relatively of its own. At the front, headlights now come with clear glass technology with transparent glass panels covering the driver's indicators, to give an example.

The lips also provided sales representatives through a multiplier effect. The weekend series and its accompanying special events (launch of Rogue magazine, the unveiling of the BMW Philippine Filmmaker Art Cars) deliver over thousands of guests...overlooking the thousands of others from interested customers.

According to the organizers, the Xpo's success is directly related to BMW's strong brand and the undeniable appeal of its product—a unique combination of luxury that would not necessarily be present in other car manufacturers.

LIGHTWEIGHT TECH. G650 Xchallenge, one of the new machines with the smallest engines in the BMW model range, gives on-road riding pleasure.

ORGANIZED BY: The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc.

The First Philippine International Motor Show

CAMPI

Shifting to Higher Gear

August 9-12, 2007
World Trade Center Metro Manila

(Media & Trade only) Aug. 9 10am - 12nn
(Public) Aug. 9 12nn - 8pm / Aug. 10 - 11 10am - 8pm / Aug. 12 10am - 7pm

The Ultimate Motor Show of the Year

Audi
Chevrolet
Honda
Hyundai
Isuzu
Kia
Mitsubishi Motors
Nissan
Porsche
Toyota
Volvo

Organizer Management: TRADEMARK INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Media Partners: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror, The Manila Times, Top Gear

FOCUS

'Casa' service, with a side order of Focus, please

By Tessa R. Salazar

IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD A FORD Focus, but intent on getting one (what with your old, beat-up 4x2 sedan sending signals it wants to retire very soon), then a "shout-out" on courting one might just work for you.

For the first time, Ford Group Philippines, through Fordlicious, is giving away a 2007 Ford Focus 1.6L base (base Trend automatic) as a grand prize.

Open to all Ford owners

The raffle is open to all Ford owners of 1997 to current models who avail of genuine Ford parts and accessories, general repair, diagnostics, body and paint services and Ford Selections products such as extended warranty, scheduled service plans and emergency roadside assistance. The promo period is ongoing until Sept. 30.

Accessories or service packages worth P50,000 each will also be raffled off as consolation prizes.

Says Dave Macasaquia, vice president for customer service operations, "It is not every day that a car manufacturer gets to raffle off a brand-new car."

To qualify, a customer must present his or her receipt at the Ford dealership where he or she will be given one raffle stub for every P10,000 single-receipt purchase made.

12-step process

During the media press conference at the new Ford Global City at the Fort, Macasaquia explained Ford's 12-step process of quality service, particularly the first service reception process, one which set Ford apart from its competitors.

Service advisors plan the vehicles on lifts where they go through the vehicle inspection together with the customers, discuss the current condition of the unit, provide them with clear explanations on the services to be performed and complete the checklist with the owners.

Needless to say, the more keen up-close old Ford makes it, the more raffle stubs—and of course, the more chances—you will have to get that new Ford Focus without it owned. Doesn't that make you want to drive your old car with more bother turning it in for repairs? We know that spot you.

New 911 GT2 with 530hp high performance sports car with low fuel consumption (See story on page B3-1)

25U
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chris Bunuel Pantoja
Chief Correspondent Pam Pastor

WATCH OUT FOR THE UNVEILING ON JULY 26, 2007

City Secrets *Part 2*

More secrets spilled this week. A bar that rocks and serves great food, a green tea haven, a fondue venue, an oyster haunt and more

If you have your own secrets to spill, e-mail us at Lz_2lue@inquirer.com.ph.

ART at F*ART

BAGS and accessories with a dose of attitude

Funky fashion for fab Pinoys

GET your locks of fashion and art at F*ART

Text and photos by Zoe Catre
25U Correspondent

RIGHT SMACK IN THE middle of busy Kamuning is an interesting concept shop where art and fashion meet.

The creative minds behind F*ART Hedwin ARTI and sisters Bhappy and Viva Andrada, Cleon Belleza-Legaspi of Filipino talent, duly wanted to provide a venue where designers and artists can showcase their creations.

The first floor houses fashion items where one can find a wide variety of brands and items to choose from.

F*ART has unique shirts from Bhappy Rocks, Whipped To Couture, Basic Twist, and Bhappy Days. They even have funky pajamas called Bhappy Jammies! Plus shoes, fedora hats, accessories by Dennis Colowal, Vida Jewellery, Simply Lei, Rhubber Bangles 'N Beads, Mona Tawson are also part of their inventory. One can also check out the collections of jewelry, jackets, fashionable sunglasses by Bhappy Andrada, Tammy Tan, Pete Villapando, Krista Sy, Daniella De Guzzi, Regine Daley, Frances Reng, Dimples Lim, and a whole lot of other budding designers.

On the Art part, the 2nd floor is a venue for events such as exhibit openings, poetry and spoken word performances, and Sketch@Dusk sessions. Selections from Rabid, Electrochrist, Mark Salonga, Hele Yuvual, and Streetcap Collective, Oddball Friends and Rhubber Dolls are there and here as well.

Bathtime ART also offers clothing customization and embellishments. Services here: bedding, tattooing, artistic haircut, BOOK CI

FISH and chips

SPICY wings

PIZZA Margherit

One route you have to take

By Pam Pastor
Photos by jill capos

After three owner changes and three name changes, Route 196 is bringing in the crowd with a killer combination of live music, art, good food and ice-cold drinks

MONICA BARRETTO, Allan Madrikejos, Geth Savellano and Eric Enriquez used to hang out at a place called Border Grill after work and after badminton sessions. They spent so much time there that when the owner was leaving for the United States, he offered to sell the place to them.

"We joked about buying the place because we loved it so much. But we weren't really ready then," says Barretto.

Border Grill soon became Sahara Republic (Monica's inner sweet) and Monica and her friends resumed regular there. But the name of Sahara Republic soon became busy with his catering business and decided to sell the bar too, asking the group if they wanted to take over.

"This time, we said yes. Buying the bar was like a full-circle moment for us. We hung out there all the time, that was where our friendships grew. We witnessed the bar's transitions. We saw it change and turn over-ish," Barretto says.

Sahara Republic is now known to people as Route 196. Although its official rebranding took place just two months, Barretto and her friends have actually been running the bar since October last year.

More than a bar

People troop to Route 196 to watch the many bands that play there. Even Barretto is quick to admit that they're not just about music. Route 196 is a bar and restaurant that pushes music and art.

"We promote all kinds of good music, not just rock and roll. We believe in Filipino musicians and find ones—and under-the-radar bands—that are excellent. We've run a bazillion gallery but we will definitely put more art in the bar. We will be having exhibits. We have the Loudcouage, a comic with with that are covered with lomographs by Loudcubes. Is."

Route 196 doesn't run out of bands and musical acts that keep people coming back.

"Every other Monday we have Juan Pablo Orosa's Mod Day Mondays. Other acts that regularly play include guitar duo Gerry and Johnny. Pinoy rock legends The Jerks and a super-gutsy band from Baguio called The Speedfreaks. There We also have productions like Sweetpea Night, Ninja Gin, Revolver, Cabinin, Last Full Show and more. Tunes Nights that will feature really talented indie bands. Route 196 is the only place where you'll catch Hamish of Sentimental doing a solo acoustic set."

The owners get a kick out of having different bands build rapport with other bands and with the Route 196 audience. "It's a great mix of bands of diverse influences and it's always thrilling seeing them chatting views, supporting each other and community," adds Barretto.

Route 196 also has iPod nights. "You can bring your iPod and play your playlist...around six to seven songs."

THE OWNERS: From Route 196 to be your home away from home.

THE SPACE Flower Show at Route 196

Although there is a lot of focus on entertainment, food did not take a backseat in the owners' line of priorities.

"We all decided on what type of food we will be serving but the actual recipes were developed by co-owner and chef Geth Savellano. We're constantly coming up with new dishes," says Barretto.

Bestsellers include the quesos, the spicy wings, salpicao, chicken fingers, fish and chips, pork-ang, nachos and tuna sisig.

Barretto recommends that first-timers try the Ninja Plate (boneless pork and chicken), Tinapa Roll, Chili Cheese Sticks ("We use flour tortillas instead of lumpia wrappers"), Herb Chicken, Ribs BBQ and Pepper-seared Tuna.

"Night time we also have a menu for beers—they're three for 75.00," she adds.

Busy owners

Although they all have other things that keep them busy...Barretto is a freelance photographer, Madrikejos is a magazine editor, Savellano is a chef, and Enriquez is in sales and marketing—they still love being bar owners.

"We all love meeting people, we treat the customers like friends. We love seeing the crowd dancing and enjoying the bands. We love regulars who keep coming back. We love being fans of the bands we adore. We love photographers and artists who share with us their passion and art. We love it that we learn to deal with the business side of things," says Barretto.

As Eric would say: Bahay mayo ito. "It's a cozy hole-in-the-wall place where you can just kick back, relax, listen to good music, love to band and enjoy yummy food. This sounds cliche, but it's a place where you can be yourself, everyone is friendly, no judgments. It's your home away from home. It's a real good vibes place. Parang 'Cheers' where everyone knows your name."

Visit Route 196 at 196-A Kalayaan Ave., Diliman, Q.C. Call 433-9172 or visit www.route196.multiply.com. The bar is open from 6 p.m.-2 a.m.

FUNKY jackings by Happy Rocks

SHOPPING strip

Funky fashion for fab Pinoys

From page C1

makeup and styling services.

Two thumbs up to the Andronis sisters for providing a great venue to showcase homegrown talent! Fashion ART junkie itself in offering "funky fashionable finds fit for fun fab Filipinos." By Filipinos, for Filipinos.

We tell you, when you visit this fab store, you will surely not walk out without a bagful of goodies in tow!

Located at 8-D corner 8-1st, Kamuning, QC. Visit www.happyrocks.com for more details.

E-mail the author at www.cola@gmail.com

A SHOWCASE of Filipino talent

SNAB or Oddball Fiesta

HAPPY jammies and embellished shoes

EVERY Coca-Cola fan and pulp pushes you to run away from frustration and to just go for whatever you want.

COCA-COLA BELIEVES IN chasing after your dreams. The worldwide beverage leader believes in today's generation's abilities and capabilities to make things happen for themselves.

Everything is within your reach. Everything is possible. And everything is achievable. One just has to have the guts to make that first move and make things happen for oneself.

The present generation of teens has to accomplish a great deal in a couple of years. They must establish a better group of who they are, and they must begin to make a difficult separation from their parents on the road toward greater personal independence.

For teens to overcome obstacles, one must find out how they do things and why they do them. In a Teen Trends study conducted in 2006 by the Nielsen Group, they surveyed teens aged 13-19 on their thoughts and habits, and at the same time to predict the trends for the coming years.

The study estimates that despite their age, teens have great purchasing power, thanks to money coming in from part-time jobs and parents. Teenagers spend annually on clothes, eating out, cars, movies and cellphones, according to the report.

They're also spending money on technology which includes mobile phones, digital cameras and portable music players.

As one might expect, music is high on the teenage totem's to-do list. Their love of music is second only to their love of friends and even ahead of their love of family, according to the study.

An estimated 60 percent of teens have created profiles on social networks like Friendster.com, Xanga or Facebook. More than a quarter of the population keeps in touch with friends online on a daily basis, either through instant messaging, e-mail, message boards or chat rooms.

Given that this is the way teens teenagers are, Coca-Cola joins them in their journey. Coke encourages them to go after what they want because that's what Coke stands for—all about fun, and never standing down and accepting no.

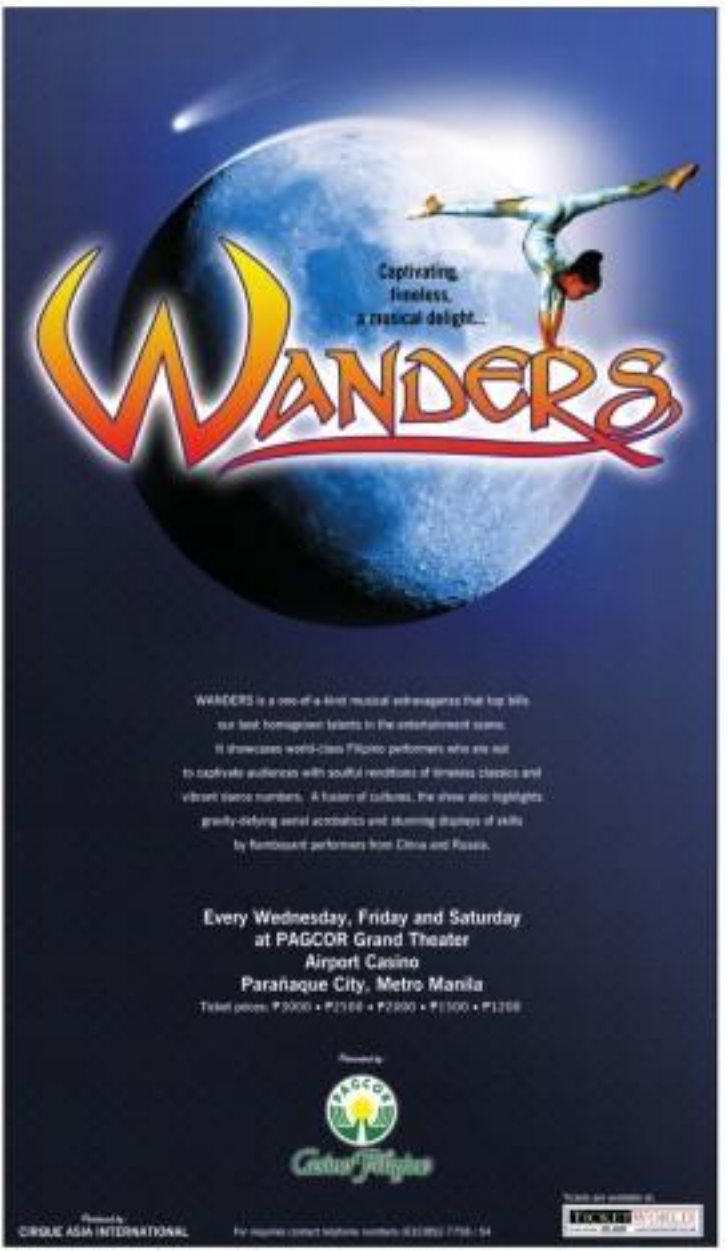
Be it an audition, a team tryout, a new sport, etc., all these experiences challenge the feeling in each individual as a person.

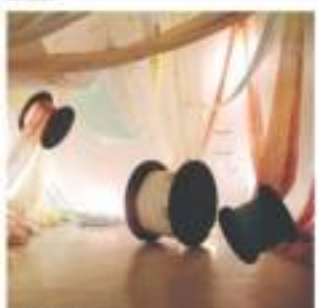
Rejection, disappointment and insecurities are overshadowed by a different kind of confidence. It's about grabbing the opportunities and taking chances for that one big break that will change your life forever.

Coca-Cola's latest campaign promises uplifting refreshments and signals the start of something great. It's always you in the face of every no which encourages today's teens to take their first step in reaching their goals, whatever they may be.

CDKET'S current TV commercial invites teens today's teens to pursue their passion.

OPEN up to the possibility.





Global art by a global citizen

By Sanna Nieva
INQ7 Contributor

An art installation interprets the borderless world

BECAUSE SHE grew up as the daughter of an Indian diplomat, Irina is Europe for 15 years, studying art in Sweden and the Philippines, and living in Egypt and other countries as an expat, artist Vesna Kanta has been exposed to a myriad of different cultures. She calls herself a "postcard" person, and it is this absorption of cultures that has led her to create "Arrivescalia."

"Arrivescalia" is a provocative conceptual installation made of 700 meters of fabric hand-dyed with Abaca Flowers and spices. Entwined in Hindi as rounded. The fluidity of the transparent fabrics (such as Jusko) draped around the room to the University of the Philippines Diliman's Executive Gallery embodies the borderless world of constant information flux and flow that characterizes life today.

The medley of colors and spices used to dye the fabrics represents the diverse geo-influences within art. The fabric originates from three separate varieties: opaque which symbolizes the artist, "represent the momentary of globalization; as the Andes of life." The strong gives off peppery smells and evokes observers to find the unusual sensations to an experience not just for the eyes, but for the touch, smell and taste as well.

The installation is displayed at the Executive Gallery, College of Fine Arts, UP Diliman until July 30.

Other works by Pedro Kanta (tel. 09127-0975436 or e-mail vkantakanta@gmail.com) are displayed in The Room (Ayenda), 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 220 R. Garcia, Bel-Air, Makati.

Available at the following Nokia Stores and Resellers: Greenhills 1, Glorietta, Digital X, Ayala, Trinoma, Festival Mall, SM City North Edsa, Galleria Cebu, Gaisano Mall, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Davao, Bankerohan City, Limketkai Center CDO, Ayala, Town Center, Mall of Asia, Pavilion, Greenhills, SM City Iloilo, SM Baguio, Alabang Town Center, Trinoma, Eastwood

Leisure realty firm marks 5 years

HIGHLANDS PRIME, INC. (HPI), a publicly listed high-end leisure property developer and majority-owned by the SM Group, celebrates five years of successfully building beautiful homes inside the exclusive Tagaytay Highlands.

HPI will commemorate its fifth anniversary with a grand event called "High at Five" on July 27, 7:00 p.m., at the Balay Room of Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

The evening will showcase HPI's milestone projects, particularly its first residential lot development in Tagaytay Highlands called The Hillside. Here homeowners will own the land and will be free to create their own dream log home. A special promotional offer only on this night awaits buyers of The Hillside.

The event is HPI's way of showing appreciation for the support extended by its stockholders, friends, Tagaytay Highlands members, prospective clients and suppliers.

STUDENTS for science. Participants of the National Youth Science Summit.

National youth summit on science and technology

OVER 200 STUDENTS FROM CATHERINE for the National Youth Science Summit at the Museum of the Filipino People of Rizal Park.

The theme of this year's summit, "Changing Earth, Changing Lives," encouraged students to pursue the field of science and technology because it is not just for the nation and the world.

The summit focused on three main issues: global warming and climate change, GMO or food, and renewable energy. Resource persons included Reynaldo de Guzman, Dr. Cynthia Hipolito and Mario Montejo.

The students were divided into discussion groups, and the resulting resolutions will be presented to the President, the secretary of Science and Technology, as well as many other members of the government.

Among the many motivational speakers at the summit was Presidential Daughter Luli Arroyo, who urged students to continue developing science and technology in order to improve the lives of their fellow Filipinos. She ended her speech by reminding students that if they end up working abroad to expand their horizons, they should return and bring their acquired knowledge and skills back to the Philippines.

Kimerlan Zagoza from Bicutan Science High School said of the science summit: "I came here to gain knowledge about problems such as climate change so that I can share my knowledge with my classmates and my community."

Sanna Nieva

PRESIDENTIAL daughter Luli Arroyo (center) with Rowela Aldanese of DOST and Brier Dyess, Science Education Institute director

LIFESTYLE 24/7

Mr. Rockefeller, a quiet steak-and-seafood restaurant located in Greenbelt 3, serves mostly American food with a twist

Mister Good Food

Text by Bianca Consunji
24/7 Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernando

DESPITE THE GROWING number of themed restaurants in the metro, very few can claim that their food is outstanding. In fact, a good number of restaurants rely on hip décor, DJs and a mile-long list of drinks to get by, instead of focusing on food.

Mr. Rockefeller, a quiet steak-and-seafood restaurant located in Greenbelt 3, is one of the few restaurants in the area that doesn't need to be renamed as one of the hippest spots in town just to get people to eat there. There are no trendy cocktails, no flashing disco lights, and no bird-clads-tables to attract the young set.

However, what still keep people coming back to Mr. Rockefeller is the food.

The restaurant, which opened in October 2006, serves mostly American food with a twist. The interiors are homey—white-washed wooden walls, weather-beaten signposts and Oyster shells mark the wood paneling, while old black-and-white photos of soccer hunters hold a rustic feel to the place.

According to Chef Edwin Bulseco, most of Mr. Rockefeller's customers are families and dating couples who head to the restaurant whenever they're up to large portions of good food. The latter particular pride in their cocktails and signatures, which are served up in over a dozen ways.

"We do this thing we call 'drinks and beverages,'" Bulseco says. "Whenever people order some of our prime items on the menu—angus beef, for instance—we present the food with a couple of songs in order to make them really appreciate the dish."

He added, "Date specialties are ever makes so popular with men who are out to impress someone on the first date, or during special occasions."

For something like that, you'd expect to shell out a couple of thousand pesos at least, but the prices in the restaurant seem reasonable, although not downright cheap. However, the portions are quite large; each dish serves two, unless you're particularly hungry.

The wagyu beef in Mr. Rockefeller is P1,200, while it would set you back by P2,500-3,500 in other restaurants. The 10-Oz Choice Grade Striploin costs P950 and is served with mashed potatoes melted with blue cheese and vegetables.

Other bestsellers include the Bourbon Rosebud (P28 US Angus rib smothered with Bourbon barbecue sauce and served with baked beans and creamed corn, P995), the Australian Tenderloin (P995), and the Barbecue Grill Selex (boneless rib fingers ribs served with barbecue sauce and fava mix).

Looking for a healthy option? We recommend the Alaskan Sole Fillet (pan-fried white fish topped with lemon pepper sauce

more on D2

PAN-FRIED: Alaskan Sole Fillet with Garlic Noodles

P930

imagine a phone that can let you watch TV anywhere

Samsung's new P930 brings you mobile TV technology. It has a swing LCD to give you a 2.2" landscape view just like on real TV. Plus, it has a multi-tasking feature so you can watch more than one channel. Never again will you have to miss out on your favorite shows. With Samsung, it's not that hard to imagine. ph.samsungmobile.com

DVB-H (Mobile TV)
2.2-inch QVGA (Quad Band)
QWERTY (Landscape View Display)
PIP (Picture in Picture)
TV-Out function
2.0 Megapixel Camera

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Benavidez Plaza, 6 Bgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City, San Juan, Metro Manila

TOLL FREE 1-800-1888SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIEN BY DOUG ABRIEN

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVENOTS BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

KYORO AND MISSY BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEPHEN PASILIAO

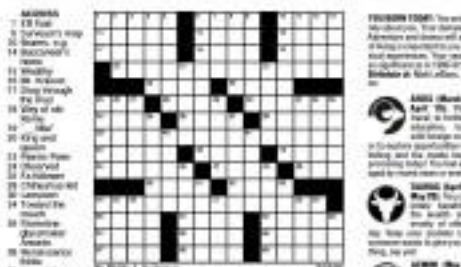
KIKO MACHINE BY DOUG ABRIEN

MAGKAIBIGANG BY JONNETTE CO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILANES JR.

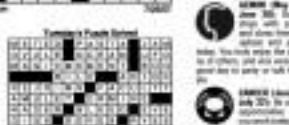
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
PUZZLE ON

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				6				
			9	8	7		6	1
6		9				2		3
4		8				5		2
2	6						8	4
	3						1	
		1				8		
		6	4		1	7		
			8	2	6			

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2020 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc. www.conceptispuzzles.com

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	9	8	1	7	4	5	6
1	8	5	4	3	6	7	9	2
6	7	4	9	5	2	8	3	1
5	1	7	2	6	8	9	4	3
9	6	3	5	4	1	2	8	7
2	4	8	7	9	3	6	1	5
8	3	1	6	2	4	5	7	9
7	9	6	1	7	5	3	2	8
4	5	2	3	8	9	1	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★

TINAPA sub-with tofu and salted egg, at right, raw and steamed oysters by the bucket

Oyster addiction

For relaxed and chummy dining, go for Oyster Boy

Text by Blanca Cumagun
Staff Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

FOR DINING OUT, YOU MAY want to go for the whole nine yards—cloth napkins, piped-in classical music and fancy dishes served by snooty waiters. But there are times when you simply want to kick back, relax, and share piles of hot, savory food with your family and friends. If you're in the mood for the latter, then you'll probably like Oyster Boy.

Even its name alone, you can be sure that the restaurant serves up all sorts of oysters. The cavernous setup up the usual suspects—fresh oysters by the bucket, oysters baked with cheese and topped with bacon—but you also have interesting versions of the seafood served in a half-shell.

For starters, you can try the Oysters with Blue Cheese (P245 for half a dozen, P389 for a dozen), which are baked and served with blue (Gorgonzola) cheese whipped with cream and bacon. A similar dish is the Oysters Florentine (P145, P280), which is made of oyster topped with blanched sauce, cheese, bell pepper and onions. Oysters Rockefeller (P145, P280) is topped with a dollop of heavy hollandaise sauce.

If you're in the mood for something more exotic, you can go for the Oysters with Crab Set and Gaji-Ae (P165, P315), which are spiced with a mixture of warm garlic rice, or the Oysters Kilawin (P135, P255), cooked in a method that the late Doreen Fernandez described as "liquid fire"—by cooking them in vinegar and chili.

The dazzled Oyster Cube, a panoply of sautéed-smoked oysters cooked with egg and chives, is topped with gas for your crosts—perfect for those who want to have a large bite of oysters in one go.

Oysters and beer

"Oyster Boy has two kinds of customers: the oyster-and-beer group, and the oysters-and-wine set," said Dennis Gan, one of the owners of Oyster Boy. "While we would prefer to be known as a dining restaurant because of the quality and taste of our food, we welcome those who just want to kick back with a beer and a bucket of oysters as well."

Some dishes are great when they go with canned drinks—beer costs P52 a bottle—while some dishes are meant to be appreciated on their own. For the drinking buddies, we recommend the Chicken in Pesto Grisc (P175), chicken wings roasted in sweet-salty sauce and served with cucumber dip. The Adobong Pusit at Baboy sa Piña (P190) is a heavy dish of squid and pork cooked in squid ink and flavored with herbs. The Smoked Tinapa Roll (P140) contains smoked milkfish rolled with herbs and egg, and served with sweet-spicy vinegar.

CRISPY pata with special oyster sauce

OYSTERS topped with melted cheese

A lot of the food in Oyster Boy is typically Filipino; you'll find dishes such as Pork Barbecue (P85 for three sticks), Sinigang (pork, lumpia and scallops cooked in vinegar, P140), and grilled stuffed squid. But some dishes have an interesting twist; their bestseller is Crispy Pata with Oyster Chili Sauce (P295), which is served with a dip made with leftover oysters. Their desserts are rather unusual, try the Goat's Milk Pannacotta (P95), or the Guimaras Mango Brownie (P75).

While there are some unusual terms in the restaurant's food, some of the time the dishes are simple, homey and down-to-earth. If you're looking for a place where you can share a platter of oysters and enjoy pata with red Smoking this lamb, this is where you should go.

Oyster Boy is located at the Shoppesin Ayala, Senorita Center Cubao, and Mobilworld, Ortigas. Call 9139089.

E-mail the author at bmcumagun@yahoo.com

MATCHA and Roasted Green Tea Lattes, P80

AMPHTEA, P120

TORIDON, P160

ASINABACON Maki, P140

Tea haven

If you love green tea, this is the perfect place for you

Text and photos by Zoe Cuevas
Staff Correspondent

I FIRST READ ABOUT KOZUE Green Tea in my fave food blog, Dessertcomesfirst.com. When I saw a photo of the Anakira—a Japanese version of Acho-Juju—I just knew I had to check it out. When I finally got to visit the place, it totally won me over.

Kozue Green Tea is an intimate tea café located in Tomas Morato, QC. It has fresh, cozy interiors, and its menu is quite impressive.

Its green tea beverages includes P180 Tea, iced green tea flavored with pomegranate syrup. If you're craving for something cold, the variants of Kyrihiro...cream blended frappes—are worth a try.

For hot drinks, we recommend Shizuku and Roasted Green Tea Lattes (P80). The flavor is just perfect, and not overpowering at all.

For dessert, check out the cakes on display. The eye-catching Tsuu tsuuu...is pleasant to look and has the right amount of sweetness.

Another must-try is the Anmitsu, since Kozue's take on this traditional Japanese dessert is beyond question.

For P120, you can enjoy a big bowl of green tea jelly, shaved ice, fruit jelly, chewy dango balls, sweet azuki beans, taro jam and a generous pack of generous ice cream. It's so yummy, is it lucky?

Kozue Green Tea also offers a variety of Japanese eats. On the menu are chilled noodles, salads (prices range from P120-P220), and hot dishes such as Aquadonburi Rinki, Special Tokuzuki and rice dishes such as Tendon.

If you want to extend your Kozue experience, take out some of its green tea and black sesame cookies (P300). Aside from those that we mentioned in jam and marmees, also displayed are tea-related items such as cups, canvas, mugs, green and clear green plastic cups.

Located at 256 Tomas Morato, QC. Call 4122700. Open 11 a.m.–Tuesday–Saturday, and 4 p.m., Sunday–Monday. Closing time is at 12:30 a.m.

E-mail the author at zcuevas@gmail.com

KOZUE Green Tea

TSAMARISU

BEEF fondue with assorted dips

The Old Swiss Inn, a 24-hour restaurant that has long been a favorite of yuppies and executives, isn't just a place for business meetings, conferences and power lunches

Fond of fondue

S'MORES chocolate fondue

By Blanca Consunji
Lifestyle Correspondent

WHILE IT'S EASY TO LUG A LAPTOP AND reading materials to a coffee shop at just about every corner of the city, there are times when you just want to sit back, relax and get a healthy helping of good food while at work.

While packaged salads and banana-toffee pies layered with pulps of coffee can help you get by awhile you study for exams or stay up to do that all-important work presentation, it doesn't hurt to treat yourself to a less gourmet food once in a while.

The Old Swiss Inn, a 24-hour restaurant that has long been a favorite of yuppies and executives, isn't just a place for business meetings, conferences and power lunches. Ever since it installed free wireless Internet, the restaurant has had a steady stream of students coming in to read their notes over coffee and fondue, along with nervous young couples on their first date.

"Many people feel at home here," explains Katrina Limcaoco, owner of the Old Swiss Inn. "I buy one stay here all day with their laptops and just order a coffee. But they usually bring their friends and share a pot of fondue and just hang out. Sometimes, they drop by after really late parties to wind down and get some food, since we're open 24 hours."

No signs—there's just no room as we settle for bland doughnuts when we can have some of the Old Swiss Inn's specialty fondues. If you have cheese, you have to try the Weatherstar Fondue (P500), a large pot of Gruyere and Emmenthal that splashed with a little Kirsch. Served with a basket of crusty bread cubes, it's the perfect afternoon or late-night snack for a group of four.

If you're in the mood for something meaty, we recommend the Fondue Bourguignonne. Ten platters of prime beef tenderloin cubes accompanied by a carousel of condiments and fries. The beef cubes are served raw; you have to spear it on your fondue fork and dip it in boiling oil for a few seconds before you can fish it out, glistening in its caramel juices, in order to dip it in your favorite sauces (which include pepper, mushroom, tomato, coriander, herbed butter and mayonnaise dips flavored with paprika, garlic, curry mustard, and marshmallow).

The best served at the Old Swiss Inn is tender, so-tasting almost raw steaks to eat a challenge.

The most popular of the fondue fits, however, is the Schweizer chocolate fondue series. Because of the popularity of the Schweizer fondues, several variations have been added to the line: the Flaming Birth (P595), for instance, contains melted dark chocolate, rum and walnuts, while the Chocolate Peanut Butter Surprise (P595) is a pot of milk chocolate with swirls of peanut butter.

The Chocolate Fiasco (P595), a pot of melted Toblerone and toasted marshmallows, is served with graham crackers. Served with fresh fruit and marshmallows, the Toblerone fondues are smooth, creamy and rich—plus, they don't taste like vegetable oil, as chocolate fountains often do.

"Our fondues are not chocolate and pure cream—no additives, no emulsifiers," says Limcaoco.

Other signature dishes of the Old Swiss Inn include the Raclette (P595), a truffle serving of melted Swiss Raclette served with marble potatoes, gherkins and pearl onions; Rosti (cored beef brisket served with sautéed cabbage and boiled potatoes (P595); Zurich Geschnetzeltes (P530), shredded pork with mushroom cream sauce and potatoes; Nopper Rösti Swiss Set (P450), potato beef medallion served with green peppercorn sauce; and Bauernwurst (P695), a selection of air dried farm specialties such as pancetta, dried beef, salami, smoked bacon and landjaeger sausage.

The Old Swiss Inn at The Garden Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1000 Reliz St., Paco, Manila. Tel. 523-3000, 5262750, 5224835 loc 1151; at the G/F Sentosa Division, Makati Avenue cor. Bel-Tesoro St., Makati City. Tel. 8180051, 8180090, 9112030 loc 1151 to 1122; and at the 2/F SMX Amusement Lounge, Commerce Avenue cor. Madrigal Avenue, Alabang. Tel. 8000586.

E-mail the author at blanca.consunji@yahoo.com

BONELESS Bourbon Ribs with corn and baked beans

Mister Good Food

From page B1

and served with garlic noodles (P295), Martha's Caesar baked lobsterqa, peppers and whipy spinach tossed in lobster and Caesar dressing (P195).

A trip to the restaurant is not complete without sampling its "spanking good" oysters. While the most popular variant is of course, the Oyster Rockefeller (oysters served with melted cheese and spinach), the lengthy list of flavors will make even the most discerning oyster fan happy. We liked the Oysters with Blue Cheese, which had a heaping spoonful of blue cheese and cream topped with half a grape on each shell.

To accompany your meal, you can choose from an extensive selection of wines in the restaurant.

"We make sure our customers are happy," says Soliven. "We give them the option of changing their side dishes if they want. For example, they can opt to change beans to plain rice, rice to fries. And we also make sure there's a special offering every week on our menu, so regulars have a reason to come back."

AUSTRALIAN steak with asparagus

She adds, "We're planning to add more seafood to our menu soon, as well as other specialties."

For the meantime, we're perfectly happy with Rockefeller's excellent lineup of dishes.

Mr. Rockefeller is located at Level 2, Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 757-4002.

E-mail the author at flamesweep@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie D. Velarde

DISQUALIFIED

'Technical problems' encumber Cinemalaya entry

By Marinel B. Cruz

FILMS GET DISQUALIFIED every year. This year, I'm the casualty," said director Ed Lejano, whose film, "Sinungaling na Bunso," was excluded from competition in this year's Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, which is ongoing at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Lejano said his film encountered "a series of technical problems," which resulted in his cancellation of its gala screening on July 21.

Last year, two films—Joe Laurel's "Mga Anino ni Apichap" and Shaira dela Cruz's "Lamentong"—were disqualified. They had failed to meet the deadline.

"I saw it coming. Okay na sa akin," Lejano said of his movie's fate. "I did not deliver on time. I take full responsibility for that."

Gala

But screenings of "Sinungaling na Bunso" will push through, with the gala screening scheduled tomorrow at 9 p.m.

"People will still get to see my movie," Lejano said on Monday. "It's still part of the run of the competition exhibition. I'm hoping that through word of mouth, people will come."

Screening in festival coordinator Serafin Quiño, she is presently due to arrive technical glitches, and that competition coordinator Lawrie Cuallo Rodriguez passes the screening.

Rules

Quiño, also president of the CCP, said the festival's organizing committee, in a meeting on Saturday to discuss Lejano's case, decided to "disqualify the filmmaker because of his failure to submit the film, as submitted, on the July 20 deadline.

"Under the rules," Inclusive Insurance Entertainment, "[it] understands that."

"Sinungaling na Bunso" tells of three dysfunctional characters who share the common experience of falling victim to a parent of easy and lax.

A farewell letter from their respective mothers reunites the sisters at Myk (Bubbly Aguilos), Irene (Jolar Mangaoil) and Carla (Jill Valentin).

ED LEJANO

Sad, but...

"It's sad, but I'm looking at the bright side," said Lejano. "I know that there's a positive side to this. It's ironic, though. I've finished a film about dysfunctional people who become victims of love. I never feel like I'm one of those characters."

The Cinemalaya festival runs until July 29, when the awards show will be staged at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo.

SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

Don't miss the most anticipated movie event of the year!

Harry Potter

Experience the movie's explosive finale in IMAX 3D

IMAX

NOW SHOWING

Ticket runs available

MOVIE MANIA

RESERVED
TRANSFORMERS
SEE HARD 4
THE SIMPSONS
BLIND DATING
EUCLID

TRANSFORMERS
CENTER STAGE
RATATOUILLE

CINEMA 1
RATATOUILLE
CINEMA 2
HARRY POTTER 5
THE SIMPSONS
EUCLID
BLIND DATING
HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS
RATATOUILLE
THE SIMPSONS
EUCLID
HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS
RATATOUILLE

movietime Event Cinemas

Style at its age as served in Remy's Kitchen

RATATOUILLE

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINEPLEX

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

SHOWBIZ CINEMAS

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

SM MALL

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

GREENHILLS THEATERS

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

INDEPENDENT CINEMA

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

FESTIVAL CINEMA

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

Blue Wave

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

SUPER CINERAMA

Cinema 1
Cinema 2
Cinema 3
Cinema 4
Cinema 5
Cinema 6
Cinema 7
Cinema 8

MOVIES / SHOWTIMES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Guilty pleasures in the biz

WHEN WE GET OUR REGULAR fix of entertainment, we go for productions that both delight and add to our emotional quotient, with an earned laugh or two thrown in for good measure.

Once in a while, however, we throw all caution and standards to the wind and indulge in some "guilty pleasures" that add absolutely nothing to our psyche—and in fact could even distract from it.

That's what guilty pleasures are all about, right? They're a well-deserved vacation from sense and sensibility, acceptable standards of performance, and the production values of one's time.

Why do we indulge in them? Because, as they feed a shallower and sillier part of us, they allow our more rigorous faculties to take a break—and thus achieve a sort of humbling and even liberating balance. Stuff that into your psychotherapist's pipe and smoke it.

At the top of our list of guilty pleasures is bad television. We're such TV addicts that we watch it all the time—all sorts of television, good, bad, indifferent, horrendously awful, etc. As long as the images move in that often appropriately-called boob tube, we eyeball them—are hours on end.

Once, in graduate school, we watched TV for more than 24 hours straight! It was a perverse kind of education we got as we moved from late-late shows to early-early programs, with stops for reruns, summit's shows, soaps, pop music shows, prime time series, documentaries, evening newscasts, late shows, all the way back to late-late shows, over and again—and learned. What's beyond Bad Television? The Cosmic Curse, or worse.

Why do we watch bad TV? Because like Mount Everest, it's there—and it's infinitely easier to ridicule the mediocre than to brave the bitter cold at the top of the world! Also, bad TV should eliminate have-less some-so-called entertainers and self-styled communicators can stick—which, given the requisite preponderance of human talents, is very. Other guilty pleasures:

Old Barney Kase movies. Kase was the comically comic father of Steve Lewis, who in turn begat Jerry Seinfeld and Jim Carrey—over the top, physical comedians, four and all. Kase, Lewis, Williams, Carrey—there's the family tree of physical comedy in its simplest.

Their best show biz counterparts, in the "guilty pleasures" sense of their comedic performances on TV and in the movies, would include Chiquito, Andrea B., Pokwang, Rezonn Aghayan, Tiya Pusit and Chokoleit.

As the other end of the performing spectrum is the melodrama, and we certainly don't lack for lush expressions of that overtly-emotional contagion of the distaff.

Topping the list are all of our original soap-cum-telenovelas, led by the sainted **Bella Flores**, who has been reading life insecurities for many generations of hapless stars—all the way back to little **Jennifer Agassa** and

VIEWFINDER

Newton C. Ramos

Ben Mauro in "Saboteur" in the early 1940s, in late Bond-a-ish of missions in the New Millennium.

And Bella has been doing it without skipping a beat—and without aging (much) to boot. Has the illusion of all memories found the Sentinel of Youth in science or fairy? Hmm, perhaps Sorcerer Bella and Colonel Abendbrot toss the Bella Thorn phenomenon for us ego-defying show?

Other guilty pleasures in the biz: The gleefully "over" performance in different stages of their careers of: Dan Roselle, Judith Anderson, Liberace, Sid Stewart, Burt Lancaster, Joan Collins, Joan Crawford, Victor Mature, Phoebe Barrie, Hanna Dore, Dante Rivi-ff, Kitten Kinski, Orson Welles, Marie Lanza, Peter Lorre, Bela Lugosi.

Veronika Hurn, Agnes Bhasvaraad, Alla Starinova, Bradley Moore, Leonard Nimoy, Sandra Seacaster, Vincent Price, Anthony Quinn, George Raft, Martha Raye, Lucille Ball, Jessica Raymond, Edward G. Robinson, Gilbert Roland, Mickey Rooney, Ronald Reagan, Jean Simmons.

Dean Shard, Charles Bronson, Sylvester Stallone, Gloria Swanson, Ben Turpin, Rudolf Valentino, Mae West, Fay Wray—and Lisa Rinna!!!-ooh-ya!

Brad Pitt

Playing a thief is getting to be a habit for Brad Pitt. After "Ocean's Thirteen," Pitt again plays a slyly humorous in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," opening in October.

In "Ocean 13," Pitt plays his usual, big robbery, he swaps wait on his associates, who are trying to collect the reward money and glory rolling on his opponents—only to discover that the greatest threat to his life may come from those he trusts the most!

'Mga Kuwentong Pambata'

The Project Pachu-Palaro Foundation is inviting students 9 to 12 years old to participate in the second Mga Kuwentong Pambata (a Pagsa Foundation National Short Story Writing Contest. This year's theme is "Ang Pagsisi ng Isang Ale (The Story of My Time)." For details, e-mail thepfi@yahoo.com. Deadline is on Sep. 1.

'Dogeaters'

Jessica Hagedorn's acclaimed play "Dogeaters," will be staged by Ateneo Performance at the Lucio D Ninido Auditorium, SOBC Pilay, Makati in November.

Filipino writer-dispatcher has transformed her best-selling novel about the Philippines during the Marcos dictatorship into an equally powerful theatrical piece that topped acclaim at the New York Public Theater in 2003. Bobby Garcia directs.

OPENS AUG. 1

First name love... then some Reverend Frank.

WILLIAMS MOORE KRASINSKI

LICENSE TO WED

ENTERTAINMENT

'The Apprentice' celeb version won't include Rosie O'Donnell

CHEER FACTOR

DONALD TRUMP

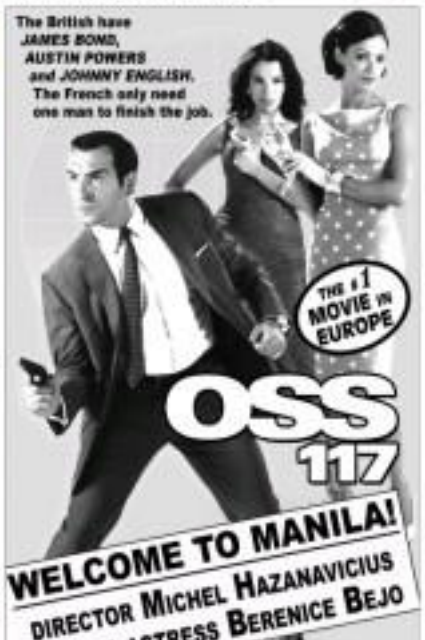
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIfornia—NBC subordinate is inviting celebrities to try to taunt Donald Trump in the next version of "The Apprentice."

And while it would make for a outrageous matchup, don't expect Rosie O'Donnell to be tossing fleers.

Trump and O'Donnell have feuded through various TV appearances, with O'Donnell mocking Trump's comb-over hair and Trump calling her fat, ugly and rude.

NBC had canceled "The Apprentice" due to low ratings, but the network hired Ben Silverman as its new entertainment chief shortly thereafter, and he ordered up Trump and executive producer Mark Burnett to revive the show.

No controversy were issued in NBC's announcement. The network said it was looking for people with entrepreneurial abilities in the areas of sports, controlled navel and fashion. AP



AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 MOVIE?	2 THE SIMPSONS	3 RATATOUILLE	4 EVAN
GLORIETTA 4	1 RATATOUILLE	2 BLIND DATING	3 THE SIMPSONS	
	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 THE SIMPSONS	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 EVAN
GREENBELT 1	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 THE SIMPSONS		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 THE SIMPSONS	4 BLIND DATING	5 RATATOUILLE	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 RATATOUILLE	4 THE SIMPSONS	5 EVAN	
NINJA CENTER CEBU	1 THE SIMPSONS	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 RATATOUILLE	4 EVAN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 EVAN	2 THE SIMPSONS		
	3 RATATOUILLE	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
TRINOMA	1 EVAN	2 DIE HARD 4.0	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 THE SIMPSONS
	5 BLIND DATING	6 RATATOUILLE	7 THE SIMPSONS	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Mechanical Image, July 27 to 29, 2007 at the Activity Center

Greenbelt — Shop & Travel at Greenbelt 1 Promo: Get a chance to win exciting prizes and a trip for two to Boracay for every P500 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment from July 1 to September 30, 2007

Alabang Town Center — Tiket Mati Animation Activation, July 23 & 28, 2007 at the Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Mini Vision Exhibit, July 27 to 28, 2007 at Powerhouse

Market! Market! — Metro Fashion Week, July 13 to 31, 2007 at participating Metro departments

Christian's — Repository Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at SM's Music Theater - Ayala August 11, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 891-0110

Ayala Museum — KAMBAYAN - a solo exhibition of Isabel Aguilera by Daniel Dee Cruz, July 12 to August 5, 2007. For more info, pls. call 729-0110 to 23 loc. 14 or send message to museum@ayalamuseum.org

Trinoma — Magic 89.9's Angel on the Ramp, July 27, 2007 at the Activity Center. Mechanical Image, August 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center

Brand-new season of 'Dolce Vita 3' premieres August 2

VIEWERS CAN ENJOY THE FRIENDLY DI "Dolce Vita 3" on Discovery Travel & Living on Thursday, Aug. 2, 8:30 to 9 p.m. (encore Monday at 10:30 p.m.).

In 22 brand-new episodes of the popular series shot on location in Florence, Sicily and the Amalfi coast of Italy, Candace Bond, Italian friend Bianca cooks up classic, easy-to-learn dishes for friends and family.

The hosts warn, the time to explore the regional cuisine in Italy.

Be enter the famous Palermo mercato, taking viewers into the real heart of the beautiful city.

As he lists the countryside, he explores authentic rustic Sicilian cuisine, found on seasonal local ingredients.

CLICK!

Nuttier Saturdays

"Nuts: Entertainment" moves to its new time slot on Saturdays, after "Spongebob."

Qhris Bernard's comedy program will connect its newest "Nuts" playmate of the moment, Rhea Seehorn.

The show features "Nuts" cast Joey de Jesus, Jeanie Gibbs, Amy Tilson, Richard Gutierrez, Alfred Vargas, Mike "Peter" Revuz, John Feir and Eva Mora.

ENTERTAINMENT

Vita-Vegetable
100% All Natural Vegetable Tablet
Boost your immune system!

Snagging the girl, 'Entourage' style

WOMEN ARE never a problem with the boys of "Entourage." They sure get their fair share. Followers of the HBO series can learn from them, with this pocketbook of tips—on how to snag the girls of their dreams—published through years of hits and misses ... er, experience:

VINCE CHASE (Adrian Grenier) "When she's talking, don't interrupt."

1) Never work too hard to get a girl's attention.

Desperation only results in awkward silence. Before you go running up to her, make sure she's looking at you with "those eyes." Unless you're blind, you'll know it when you see it. Then when you chat her up, keep her attention by making eye contact...with her eyes, not her breasts. And always bring a pen with you in case her number doesn't.

2) If necessary, use your friends shamelessly.

Try the "Wingman" maneuver on her friend your buddy set to the girl to make a nod out of himself. Then you walk over to save the day! Apologize to the lady, pull him back to the group and then ask for her number later. Works every time—well, at least. Of course, don't send a Wingman who looks better than you!

3) Watch for danger signs.

Nothing kills your mojo "cool" and equates you like a psycho girlfriend. Danger signs are all over the place, but they can be subtle. Check out her history before you do anything, big degrees of separation, no...number! A bartender makes the best informant (don't worry, slip him a crisp bill; then better if you know her on keyboards)!

4) Think like a girl.

The more you can empathize with a woman, the closer you will be to securing her unconditional love. Feel her pain. Become utterly lost and despised immediately to show that your only "dig" list. Even if she knows you're pretending, the effort is still a whole lot more than what most guys attempt. Bind your head and regularly say "Uh huh," while you take it for weeks.

ERIC (Kevin Connolly) "Say something in slow-mo when you are on the inside."

5) Don't be embarrassed to show affection.

Show your sensitive side to both women and men friends. The ladies are often impressed at how romantic you are, that you don't distinguish between the genders when it comes to really connecting. If hugging is not your thing, find some other less intrusive manner to display your affection. Try placing a hand on your guy friend's shoulder when you think he/she isn't doing.

6) Never ever have break-up sex.

It isn't over till it's over. Sex of any kind with an emotional bond leaves you craving for more. Worse, leaving out in any goodbye is confusing—your brain says, "It's over" but your body says, "I still want." Change your number and don't tell her about it. Then delete her from your phone.

7) Listen to a girl like there was no one else left on the planet.

If you didn't take notes, just remember this: Let her finish! It doesn't matter how long she goes on for, or in fact many years she repeats herself. Just don't interrupt. Put a mint in your mouth if you feel like talking. The more you do, the more you will want to stop talking.

8) Speak intelligently.

It's not the size of your stash. It's the other head that matters...the big one! And there's no bigger turnoff than a blithering man without substance. Everyday for a woman begins the moment she hears you say something intelligent. What happens after depends on how big a year you are in bed! Read for business sales—you do it!

ARI GOLD (Jeremy Piven) "Ilene's ex girl is...Naomi is...Woman check the goods, bro."

9) Don't let insecurity destroy your chances.

It's natural to protect yourself from getting hurt. But denying your feelings and avoiding someone you're attracted to badly as you won't be hurt by her is just silly. Learn to accept pain as a part of pleasure and you'll quickly grow the meaning of true love. Go to the mall: help section of a bookstore and look for titles like, "Dalawang Mukha ng Pag-ibig" or "Pag-ibig: Sakit ng Kalooban."

TURTle (Jerry Ferrara) "It's not the size of your scratch that matters."

10) Show your figure.

If you've got it, flaunt it. They may do it subtly but they do check out the goods. If you know you don't have a supermodel face or personality, then use your body. There's nothing like 'boobs' temptation to draw the attention to yourself. Get a gym membership—and use it!

11) Sell yourself, if you must.

Ever wondered why they say "I used you always come in last"? That's because you don't do anything to sell yourself. So one's asking you to be a blabbermouth but at least say something to show who you are in the inside. Mind reading is not a common gift among us mortal people! Practice voicing your opinions after every newspaper article you read.

DRAMA (Kevin Dillon) "Feel her pain."

12) Don't be a wise ass.

You don't have to resist every thing said to you. If you're smart, save it for the classroom, not the bar. A quiet person always emerges a loud "salamuk," so say what you need to say pragmatically and always use wit to charm, not to irritate. Try watching every James Bond flick available.

The third season of this hit HBO comedy series, based loosely on the Hollywood experiences of its executive producer, Mark Wahlberg, comes to Asian television on Monday, July 30, at 10 p.m. on HBO Signature, SkyCable, and at 11 p.m. on HBO.

Century Tuna
Culinary Meet
Year 5
Cooking Competition 2007
the PLEASURES of TUNA
Come and join the fun as we witness the exciting showcase of culinary talents on AUGUST 11 and 12, 2007, GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER
AMATEUR FOOD ENTHUSIAST
The Ultimate Century Tuna Iftar Showdown
1 Member Team Competition
Grand Prize: P 30,000.00 cash
PARENT & CHILD FOOD ENTHUSIASTS
Creative Century Tuna Sandwich Making
2 Member Team Competition of 1 Child and 1 Parent
Grand Prize: P 30,000.00 cash
HRM STUDENTS
The Great Century Tuna Trio Challenge (Salad, Sandwich and Pasta)
2-Member Team Competition of 2 Students and 1 Advisor
Grand Prize
P 30,000.00 cash for the team plus
P 30,000.00 cash for the school
PROFESSIONALS
Century Tuna Iron Chef Date Plate
2 Member Team Competition of 1 Chef and 1 Assistant
Grand Prize: P 40,000.00 cash
CENTURY CULINARY CIRCLE
SOLA Tender Care

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 5 – 3HX	6 DIE HARD 4
2 OUIJA	7 TRANSFORMERS
3 BLIND DATING	8 Indistinct. HANGGANG DITO na LAMANG AT WARAMING SALAMAT PO
4 RATATOUILLE	9 PLANET TERROR HARRY POTTER 5
5 THE SIMPSONS	10 VACANCY

ERMITA

1 OUIJA	
2 VACANCY TRANSFORMERS	5 BLIND DATING
3 THE SIMPSONS	6 DIE HARD 4
4 RATATOUILLE	7 HARRY POTTER 5

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS	5 THE SIMPSONS
2 HARRY POTTER 5	6 BLIND DATING
3 OUIJA	7 PLANET TERROR VACANCY
4 RATATOUILLE	8 OUIJA

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 THE SIMPSONS
2 TRANSFORMERS	5 RATATOUILLE
3 OUIJA	6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER

1 HARRY POTTER 5	3 RATATOUILLE
2 THE SIMPSONS	4 OUIJA

STA. ROSA

1 THE SIMPSONS	1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE	2 RATATOUILLE
3 OUIJA	3 OUIJA
4 HARRY POTTER 5	4 VACANCY
5 WILDERNESS / CAPE KARMA	5 WILDERNESS / CAPE KARMA

LIPA

DASMARINAS

1 HARRY POTTER 5	1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 RATATOUILLE	2 THE SIMPSONS
3 THE SIMPSONS	3 RATATOUILLE
4 OUIJA	4 OUIJA
5 CAPE KARMA	5 WHITE NOISE 2 / PLANET TERROR
	6 IN THE LAND of WOMEN / NEXT

IMUS

ANGELES

1 HARRY POTTER 5	1 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE	2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 THE SIMPSONS	3 VACANCY
4 OUIJA	

TARLAC

STARMILLS

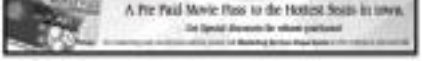
1 HARRY POTTER 5	4 OUIJA
2 RATATOUILLE	5 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE SIMPSONS	6 DIE HARD 4

BACOLOD

1 HARRY POTTER 5	5 BLIND DATING
2 OUIJA	6 RATATOUILLE
3 RATATOUILLE	7 OUIJA
4 THE SIMPSONS	8 THE SIMPSONS
5 RESERVE	9 ZODIAC
6 WHITE NOISE 2	10 WHITE NOISE 2

ILOILO

1 HARRY POTTER 5	
2 RATATOUILLE	
3 OUIJA	
4 THE SIMPSONS	
5 ZODIAC	
6 WHITE NOISE 2	



Mitch takes old pals to Captain's Bar show

MITCH VALDES RETURNS FOR AN all-new series of gigs at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati, on July 28, Aug. 4 and 11.

Titled "The Best of Mitch Valdes," the show will have a special segment featuring the singer's friends at various points in her music career—Boy Cassass, Xavier Jovenzo, Nicole Rustgaard??, Cherie Gil.

Cassass and Valdes co-starred in the 1978 production of "2 Chelo Superstar," while Jovenzo, Rustgaard and Gil were Valdes' colleagues in the theater.

Show starts 8:30 p.m. For reservations or inquiries, call 750-8888 or 899-3188.

SHOW TIME

Tonight

Instrumental Sets at RJTV Bar. Call 899-3038

Bingge Aguilar with Shoti at UEC Park Cafe, Ebenezer

Richard Merk and Friends at Mitch's Bar

The Shorefields at Points Circle, Eastwood City

Tomorrow

The Members at Points Circle, Eastwood City

July 27

The Dawn at Eastwood City Central Plaza

The Company at Metrobar, 8 p.m. Call 911-1005

July 31

Richard Poon at Points Circle, Eastwood City

Reunited

RJTM 100.3's The Groove and the Latest Concert Series presents "BJ & Noce Reunited" featuring Ramon Jacinto and Rjoy Velasco tomorrow at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

WITHOUT RICO

Rico Blanco is holding auditions for a new singer, now Rico Blanco. Meanwhile, the band played its first gig without Rico recently at Sofitel in Makati.

Sugarfree's Ebe Dancel, meanwhile, took turns with brother Vin Dancel of Tanduay Rakis) jamming on old Rivermaya hits.

DID YOU KNOW...

US president next year will be a woman

HOLLYWOOD HILLS, California—The United States will have a female president next year—in the Fox TV series "24."

Kiefer Sutherland-wielding actress Cherry Jones will play President Allison Taylor when the show about the exploits of counterterrorism agent Jack Bauer (Sutherland) returns in January for season seven, the network announced Sunday.

Jones' term will coincide with Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential bid, but Fox Entertainment Chair Peter Liguori said there will be no connection between fiction and real-world politics.

Dramatic

"It's a dramatic decision. ... The president is a very important piece of '24,'" Liguori told The Associated Press. "We've had a broad array of presidents on the show, why not a female president?"

The series has been on Deal Officer groundbreaker Sentinel, with Dennis Haysbert playing President Palmer, the first black president.

Jones, winner of best actress Tony Awards for "The Heiress" and "Doubt," has appeared in films including "Down" "Bucket" and "The Perfect Storm" and has guest-starred on TV shows including the White House drama "The West Wing."

Liguori and newly appointed Fox programming president Kevin Reilly appeared Sunday at the summer meeting of the Television Critics Association to discuss the upcoming TV season on Fox, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. AP

Bye to hobbits, hi to kung fu

HONG KONG—THE HOBBITS UPRAISE escape lives to protect Middle Earth from the evil Sauron, Hong Kong fu fighters and outlaws warriors have taken their place.

Or to put it another way, "The Lord of the Rings" movie trilogy swallowed New Zealand's cinema industry, but now that the huge production is over, the country's filmmakers are looking to thin to keep their head from growing.

They've succeeded in luring producers from mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and South Korea to cricket shoot in their scenic country or use its editing facilities, and they're pushing hard to get more business from Asia.

"New Zealand and the country's scenery infrastructure generally are focusing more and more on Asia," said Stuart Ord, project manager at Film New Zealand, the country's locations and tourism office.

Sheer economic force

The New Zealand industry's drive to tap investments from its northern neighbors partly stems from the backing of Hollywood investments. "Rings" was a sheer economic force, with shooting taking place over 15 months in 1999-2000 and special effects work taking longer, but its departure left a major void.

Production financing in New Zealand surged from $146 million in 1998 to $402 million in 2001 in part due to the shoot, according to industry figures.

When the "rings" work was over, production financing in New Zealand plummeted $176 million in 2002, it then went back up to $402 million in 2003—in part thanks to "Rings" director Peter Jackson's next big bid "[unwood]production, "King Kong."

Hong Kong director John Woo was supposed to spend more than $80 million on his account Chinese epic "Red Cliff."

The Japanese romantic movie "Dream" was shot in the New Zealand town of Methven. South Korean director Kim Jong-he wanted locations in the country for his movie "Together." Bu Park Bond Joo film editing lab in Wellington, owned by Jackson of "Rings" fame, is editing the Chinese movie "Big Shot" works to take to handle three other films.

Keep going out there

Matt Aitken of Weta Digital, which won Oscars for its "Rings" visual effects and worked on Hong Kong director Tsui Hark's kung fu epic "Seven Swords," said the company bids on projects in both Asia and the US.

"We've got to keep going out there and look for more work," he said.

Location coordinator Ord said Asian filmmakers are more likely to take their work to New Zealand than they because they have more money at their disposal and often write modern stories that can be shot abroad—as opposed to period stories set in remote temples and palaces.

Production co-coordinator Cameron Bennett says Japanese TV stations like to shoot scenes set in Western locations in New Zealand locations. It's cost effective, noting his country's landscapes have doubled for Nature and Pakistan.

Bennett said while the arrival of big Hollywood productions has pushed movie crew wages higher, they remain reasonable.

Good experience with US

Singapore movie executive Daniel Yun agrees, saying that while the wages are now higher than in Asia, "it's still something that's sensible for us." The company Yun manages, Mediacorp Raintree Pictures, just shot "The Terminal" in Auckland.

Yun also noted that while some companies are used to Hollywood scale work, others are still willing to accommodate smaller budgets.

Asian filmmakers, however, often appreciate that New Zealand's film work has been upgraded by its experience with American productions.

"On any one set, someone's been on all the big 'Lord of the Rings' movies," said Bennett, the production coordinator. "They've all had experiences with those big budget movies it definitely ups their level of skills." AP

STEPHEN CHOW in "Kung Fu Hustle"

SEAN Astin and Elijah Wood on the famous cinema location

POWER PLANT CINEMA

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX | THE SIMPSONS PG-13 | THE SIMPSONS PG-13

NATATORIELLE – D | BLIND DATING PG-13 | NATATORIELLE – D

HOYTS E-SCREEN SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

NATATORIELLE 1:00, 4:10, 9:30, 10:00

NATATORIELLE 1:00, 7:00

THE SIMPSONS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

THE SIMPSONS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE

Catch the Couples Special!

Come to Shangri-La Plaza's Season Kinder sale.

Enjoy discounts of up to 70% OFF

from participating stores up to July 31

See you at the Shang!

Shangri-La Plaza

Eastwood City

the bloomfields

Catch them LIVE!

Every Wednesday at 9:30 PM

Eastwood Central Plaza

FREE admission

Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 NATATORIELLE

2 THE SIMPSONS PG-13

3 NATATORIELLE

4 HARRY POTTER

For inquiries, call:

687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE THX experience.

Giving you more than the hard sell

THX

ALL SYSTEMS GO! for your future in the heart of Metro Cebu

TRINOMA NOW OPEN!

Ayala Land Commercial

MOVIES • PG. 12

OPENS AUGUST 1

TATANGGAPIN KAYA TAYO NG JAPAN KAPAG LUMUBOG ANG 'PINAS?

The #1 MOVIE in JAPAN!

EARTHQUAKES, TSUNAMIS, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS...

FIRST JAPAN...THEN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SINKING OF JAPAN

MANY ELEMENTS IN THIS MOVIE ARE BASED ON REAL FACTS

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning July 30

Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller in "Starsky & Hutch"

TW	LW	Title	Gross	Wks
1		I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry	$34.8 mln	1
2	1	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	$33.5 mln	2
3		Hairspray	$27.8 mln	1
4	2	Transformers	$20.5 mln	3
5	3	Hitch	$11.0 mln	4
6	4	Live Free or Die Hard	$7.5 mln	4
7	5	License to Wed	$5.8 mln	3
8	6	Stir	$3.9 mln	5
9	7	Even Almighty	$2.5 mln	5
10	8	Knocked Up	$2.5 mln	8

This Week, Last Week, Movie, Gross, Weeks in Release

* New release

Based on 10,000 theaters compiled on Sunday

REUTERS

FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR OF SAM RAIMI'S "THE GRUDGE" & "THE RING" & JAMES CAMERON'S "THE ALIEN"

THE LAST NOISE THAT YOU'LL HEAR IS THE SOUND OF YOUR SCREAM.

WHITE NOISE: THE LIGHT

NOW SHOWING

Kapuso exec on Angel: We made her a star

GMA-7 EXECUTIVE MEGAN CAGNOTTO ON Angel Locsin making the big move: "We are shocked and saddened that Angel and her manager treated us this way. (Angel) would've been wrathful about her plans. We nurtured her and made her a star. I hope she finds peace in her decision."

Earlier, Angel, through her manager Becky Aguila, announced she was not renewing her contract with the Kapuso network. The network' duties, Angel Cagnazaro, told the heavens that he and Aguila were negotiating with ABS-CBN.

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed the weekend's TV show biz pinpoints:

•Becky and Angel's contract with GMA-7 expired on March 31, which makes her virtual freelancers now.

•"This was the (biggest) network deal(s) pandering," Aguila told "The Buzz" host Boy Abunda. "Negotiations never ceased. Angel did everything she network wanted."

Last year, Angel and Becky fought over finances. Now, Becky has only good things to say about her word.)

•"She's very hardworking. Maipapa'ylan talent mahilig gumimik. Ever since ... wala akong nerving na nakuha."

(And some shots herself, too.)

•"I'm not just Angel's manager but also her second mother."

•Angel's deal was less exclusive. "Pipo na ang kontrata ko kay Star (main with GMA-7 she helped the network in her own way."

For real?

•Are they just playing their parts, or are Bingbing Crosso and Marian Rivera really smitten with each other? The two are portraying the lovers Angel and Shamcar in the local version of the Mexican hit series, on GMA-7. They had these to say about each other on "Showbiz Central":

•Dingdong: "Hindsdeshi si Mars sa—ang sinsay-sa, ang beauty q'yo."

•Marian: "Ding's sweet naman sa a Dong, tsaka ha, 'Mine!' Ito si Dong."

(Hello, Kanyle?)

Getting into it

•How a Ina Colindo preparing for her Hollywood movie? "Pag umiiyak ang aktres ng camera, English nang English," she told "Showbiz Central" host John Lapus.

•For the first time in almost three years, the Bautista sisters Gretchen, Marjorie and Claudine were publicly seen together. This happened when the three posed for snapshots with Claudine's newborn, Sarina, at the hospital last week.

•A weepy Jeja Fernandez appeared on "The Buzz" to air her side of the story in solving Bobbi and Ryan, her children with Martin Nievera, and Martin's current partner Katrina Ojeda. Pops insisted that she supports Martin's decision to have another child with a different partner, provided that Martin "makes sure our kids are treated fairly." Pops said she was so mad at Martin (sing a ball!) that she named clowns the coffee on the Sunday show "SOP" as the synonymous moniker with her ex.

Cast of 'Desperados'

Final cast of "Desperados": Aida Mae Quiroz, Marian Rivera, Bella Gutierrez and Ina Colindo.

Marian Rivera seems to be the new favorite of Regal's Mother Lily Monteverde. Marian has been cast as one of Sharon Cuneta's children in Regal's other MMFF entry, "Rubay Baby," a dramatic comic update of "Ad Mina to Gina."

Not this one

If Marian is the current apple of Mother Lily's eyes, Jennylyn Mercado seems to have fallen out of favor. Jennylyn is no longer in the cast of "Rubay Baby," and has been cast in another MMFF entry, Irma Ty sister's act Anthonyson, "Bedikit."

RUSHES

POPS FERNANDEZ

SALLY FIELD thrilled during a guest-role appearance for the ABC show "Brothers and Sisters" at Garlick ST. Los Angeles gay and lesbian Film Festival, as the Director's Guild Of America in LA last Saturday.

TELEVISION personality Tammy Faye Messner wipes a tear during an exclusive interview with CNN talk show host Larry King. She announced her recent diagnosis of inoperable lung cancer.

Delectable animated dish

By Oliver H. Palumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

GREAT CULINARY EXPERTISE AND rodent looks a strange but scientific combination in "Ratatouille" (pronounced rahtuh-tooweel), the latest from Pixar animation (studios and director Brad Bird ("The Incredibles"). The cartoon movie is an exceptionally stylish adventure that's colorful and kinetic enough to grab kids' undivided attention, while smoothly incorporating nuggets of wisdom and drama that grownups can appreciate.

The tasty two-hour "Ratatouille" has its cute, distinct spin on the "man versus beast" and "like your dreams" concepts, a solidly crafted film that challenges traditional notions about art and animation as it entertains.

It's primarily the tale of a talented rat, Remy (voiced by Patton Oswalt), whose gift for discerning the ingredients of food eventually lands him the job of living his pinkie poison quilles. But Remy has other ambitions, apart from a collective talent for cooking.

A hard-head food rat separates him from his family and friends, and he have finds himself scampering around the legendary restaurant of his long-deceased chef idol Auguste Gusteau. The plucky young rodent is hopeful that this momentous discovery comes with a human partnership.

Soon enough, he does get the chance to create a rat's masterpiece.

The restaurant's new garbage boy, Linguini (voiced by Lou Romano), currently concocts his own soup recipe behind the chef's backs. But he's not able to it, so Remy sneaks in and does the cooking, which instantly delights a visiting food critic.

Linguini and Remy soon form a secret partnership. Like a puppet master pulling strings, the rat tugs at the man's hair, which gives him "control" of the human's movements. This symbiosis is especially useful when the talentless Linguini is hired as the new supposedly genius cook, while Remy secretes things from inside the guy's hat.

The animation is typically smooth and is comes in movements, the stylized figures offering a rich variation of textures and expressions. The script also delightfully complements the characters' visual representations.

It's rare that such an animated film is able to find a genuine and sensitive starting relationship between its action-inducing components and its periodically malleable denizens. As a result, the characters steal the line between believability and arduous comedy, cutting this world of cooking humor and animal dynamics just right.

So the characters here aren't the cookie-cutter cornballs from many half-baked digitally made cartoon. We effortlessly believe that endearing and dedication are important for Remy, as well as for Colleen Chaumont-Gandolini, the lone female chef in the team. Fiercely competitive but willing to trust the new, clueless recruit, she profoundly shares her valuable work ethics and experiences because she honestly wants Linguini to succeed.

Memorable perspective

Another such-pivoted character, the grim food critic Anton Ego (Peter O'Toole), is the harbinger of doom, a harsh but otherwise substantial figure. His presence is memorable, fearful and wise perspective on criticism and appreciation later in the movie.

"Ratatouille" is also about pursuing and loving one's profession, and unabashedly spunks of sharing and believing in oneself despite his/her/its seemingly origins. Penny the cuteness is all about good taste, and he can surely teach humans a thing or two about it.

Springfield is home, sweet Homer

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT—ROLLING out the yellow carpet, the honorary "hometown" of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie Simpson played host over the weekend to the premiere of "The Simpsons Movie," with creator Matt Groening among thousands who turned out to toast the debut.

The film's producers were also in the crowd celebrating the TV cartoon family's 18th full-length film in a movie with the same name as the fictional home of the Simpson family.

Montana' Springfield got the same votes in an online USA Today poll and earned the right to host the event, beating out competing Springfields in Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon and Tennessee.

Officials for Vermont's Springfield, a city of almost 9,000 that was originally unincorporated, lobbied to be included in the contest and Chen won it, in part on the strength of a homemade video in which Homer—played by a local talk-show host—runs through town chasing a big, pink, rolling doughnut before he gets chased into a movie theater by a mob of people.

Vermont's Springfield got 15,867 votes, edging out Springfield, Illinois, which drew 14,634.

On Saturday, streets were closed off, costumed Simpsons look-alikes walked through the crowds and thousand fans vied for tickets to one of four showings of the movie at the 24-house Springfield Theatre, the first of which was by invitation only.

Groening said he is short screenings before the first showing: "At Homer would say, 'Woo-hoo!'"

THE MAGIC CONTINUES ON ITS 3RD WEEK!

ALL AGES ADMITTED.

₱173.6 MILLION NATIONWIDE IN JUST 12 SPELLBINDING DAYS!

"Edge-of-your-seat entertainment."

"A spellbinding, splashy display of word-on-word action."

"A spectacular, magical masterpiece."

"Daniel Radcliffe's performance is sensational."

"A perfect blend of wizardry and heart-felling emotion."

Opening Today

Hanggang Dito na Lamang at Maraming Salamat

Stars: Nonie Buencamino, Ana Santos, Ayuko Hayashi

Directed by Lino Tolentino

Based on an Orlando Nadres play and a classic in the gay lit canon, this digital-feature showcases the wobbly friendship between a closet gay and a flamboyant drag queen. Says Nonie Buencamino of the heroine: "The abiding gem of Philippine theater is now a movie, thanks to the initiative and resourcefulness of its director." Tolentino points out that Tabada "should be complimented for his knack for 'perfect' casting," Says the director: "Cesar, underwent actors like Nonie and Ana hardly need direction. Ana's comic timing is unquestionable and Nonie's character is like, breathing." Diametrically in Indefinite, Bobinanos follows.

Ratatouille

With the voices of Patton Oswalt, Ian Holm, Will Arnett, Brian Dennehy, Janeane Garofalo

Directed by Brad Bird

A rat dreams of becoming a gourmet chef in Paris, the world's

Blind Dating

Stars: Chris Pine, Eddie Kaye Thomas, Anjali Jay

Directed by James Bolch

A original Sinclair guy (Thad) falls for an indian girl Lizzy who is betrothed to another man. Bruce Westbrook of Houston Chronicle opines that "it's not preachy or sappy ... a lively yet meaningful romantic comedy that ... entertains." Ann Hornaday of The Salt Lake Tribune states that "the script aims for 'American Pie' smarts, [and] the director benefits from the nice chemistry between lead stars Pine and Jay." Jim Hemphill of NetCasts describes it as "sweet and entertaining ... thanks to two strong lead performances and its essential good cheer. (The filmmakers) have obvious affection for their characters."

The Simpsons Movie

With the voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Hank Azaria

Directed by David Silverman

"Somewhat funnier [animated] family" on television cinema ever to the big screen, Matt Groening, the series' creator, tells Swanson over that the pilot "involves love and the end of the world. It's not a political symposium." Josh Tyler of Cinematical.com comments that although "the comedy is at least 10 years too late ... 'The Simpsons' has managed to remain relevant, tackling Sunday-social topics and riskier political subjects ... It's TV's most conservative and 'cutting' series." Brian DOYLE of Scotsboy.com praises Dan Castellaneta as "[his] screen star not only the devilish and manic nature of the series, but also the Simpson family's soul."